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LATIN AMERICA

SPECIAL CONSUMER NOTICE
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NOTICE

On 1 June 1987 FBIS will begin publication of reorganized and renamed DAILY REPORTS. The following list details the changes being made in the eight volumes.

I.	CHINA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
II.	EASTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
III.	SOVIET UNION DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
IV.	EAST ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly ASIA & PACIFIC DAILY REPORT; contents unchanged
V.	NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA DAILY REPORT; contents include: Middle East & South Asia Review Inter-Arab Affairs Islamic Affairs Palestinian Affairs OPEC Affairs South Asian Regional Affairs Arab Africa Algeria Chad Egypt Libya Mauritania Morocco Sudan Tunisia Western Sahara Arabian Peninsula Bahrain Kuwait Oman PDRY Qatar Saudi Arabia United Arab Emirates Yemen Arab Republic Iraq Israel Jordan Lebanon Syria South Asia Afghanistan Bangladesh India Iran Maldives Nepal & Bhutan Pakistan Sri Lanka
VI.	LATIN AMERICA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged

(continued on back of report)

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SUPREME COURT SUSPENDS CASES AGAINST NAVY OFFICERS

PY240025 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2330 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Apr (DYN) -- The Supreme Court of Justice today decided to suspend trial proceedings against approximately 20 naval officers -- many on active duty -- who were involved in the case of the Navy Mechanics School (ESMA). The decision, which was announced tonight at 2000, is in keeping with an earlier decision handed down by the Supreme Court on 21 April withdrawing the thick files on the ESMA human rights violations case from the Federal Appellate Court.

The Supreme Court has thus upheld a special appeal filed by the defendants' lawyers requesting that the case be returned to the venue of the Armed Forces Supreme Council.

FEDERAL COURT RULES ON HUMAN RIGHTS CASES

PY232135 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1140 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Apr (NA) -- The Buenos Aires Federal Court has ordered strict preventive custody for Brigadier Major Hipolito Mariani, retired, and Brigadier Major Cesar Comes, retired, in a case involving serious human rights violations in the I Army Corps. The federal court also ruled to free sanitation Colonel Julio Estevez; Brigadier Major Juan Garcia, retired; Colonel Franco Luque, retired; and Inspector Omar Aguilera. The cases involving them, however, were not closed.

The federal court upgraded from preventive custody to strict preventive custody the confinement of former La Pampa police Inspector Roberto Fiorucci, deputy inspector Athos Reta, and officers Carlos Reinhardt and Nestor Cemizo, who were involved in repeated tortures. It was reported that Mariani and Comes held command posts in Defense Zone 1, site of the clandestine detention center known as "Mansion Sere" or "Atila," whose existence was proven during the trial of the former commanders of the military regime.

Mariani is reportedly involved in six torture cases, involving Juan Carlos Brin, Jorge Brin, Canon Saverio Sinquemani, Guillermo Fernandez, Jorge Cardozo, Pilar Calveiro de Campiglia, and Claudio Tamburrini.

Comes has been accused of torturing Alberto Garritano, America Abrigo, Claudio Tamburrini, Daniel Rossomano, and Carlos Garcia.

Concerning the Estevez case, the federal court's ruling states that subsequent evidence has allowed the court "to review his situation." For this reason Estevez' preventive custody was reversed.

GENERAL CARIDI VOWS TO DEFEND CONSTITUTION

PY232040 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1602 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 23 Apr (DYN) -- Army Chief of Staff General Jose Caridi today said that his force will defend the republican system and the Constitution. He also pointed out the need to reestablish internal discipline in the Army after last week's events which ended in a drastic shakeup of the Army leadership, in a move that reaffirmed presidential power.

Caridi assumed his post during a ceremony that took place at the First Infantry Brigade parade ground. The ceremony was presided over by Defense Minister Jose Horacio Jaunarena and attended by former Chief of Staff General Hector Rios Erenu. In his first message to the Army, Caridi mentioned the military uprisings that took place in Cordoba, Campo de Mayo, Salta, and Tucuman during Easter Week and on 21 April. He said that the incidents "have shaken the nation."

Caridi, the second military chief to swear "to obey and enforce the present Constitution," said he "felt the need to be clear and precise in his concepts."

"We must reinvigorate the soul of the Army. We must return to the sources that model the thought and behavior of all Army members," he said, adding: "Military performance must be guided by strict compliance of the military laws and regulations."

This should happen, he said, by "placing our minds and feelings at the service of the Army when it goes through difficult times," obviously referring to the problems of the last few days when the mid-ranking officers expressed their discomfort at the lack of legal consistency [la falta de una definicion legal] regarding the court testimony of some Army officers in the cases of human rights violations committed during the antisubversion struggle.

Caridi, 56, is known as a man of few words. He said: "We will continue giving our support and consolidating our already tested and unchangeable republican system."

With Caridi's assumption, the government has solved the military crisis that began on 15 April, when former Major Ernesto Barreiro refused to appear before the Cordoba Federal Court to testify in a case involving crimes committed in 1976 at the illegal La Perla prison, which was under the jurisdiction of the III Army Corps. [passage omitted]

JAUNARENA SAYS ARMED FORCES SITUATION 'NORMAL'

PY232053 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1557 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Apr (TELAM) -- Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena stated today that the situation of the Armed Forces is entirely normal. Minister Jaunarena made this statement to the press at the parade ground of the Patricios Infantry Regiment after installing General Jose Segundo Dante Caridi as Army chief of staff.

Jaunarena said that the promotion of Caridi, to be followed by other corps commanders and high-ranking chiefs, represents one more step toward the normalization of the Army situation.

Asked about the problems to be solved by the new chief of staff, Jaunarena said that the main problems are those mentioned by Caridi during his speech, in addition to that of a better reorganization and a more professional attitude toward military life.

He pointed out that the new chief of staff is fully accepted by his subordinates, because they owe him obedience, and because he was appointed by the president of the Republic, who, using his constitutional power, named the most qualified person to carry out the democratic process in the country. Jaunarena concluded by saying that the situation in the Army, Navy, and Air Force is entirely normal.

FORMER COS ERENU ON MILITARY CRISIS, RECONCILIATION

PY240314 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2248 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Apr (NA) -- Outgoing Army Chief of Staff General Hector Rios Erenu stated today that last week's rebellion "is a much broader problem" than just a military uprising. He noted that the demands went beyond the Army's priorities and were aimed "at a different level," directly hinting at the political branch. Rios Erenu made exclusive comments for NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS following the ceremony inaugurating General Jose Caridi as the new Army chief of staff.

Rios Erenu said: "I believe that the key point to reconciling the civilians and the military involves understanding the national political situation we are experiencing and the need for us to truly reconcile." Rios Erenu added that "it is indispensable and pressing to give up sectarianism and to act with great self-denial to be able to move along the common way that I have been mentioning for a long time but that has not yet been taken." Rios Erenu added: "I believe we must confirm a common way between military men and civilians and begin now, as soon as possible."

Rios Erenu also said that the definition of the due obedience principle by the courts or a possible bill stating the scope of the due obedience principle will not be aimed "at relaxing tensions." Rios Erenu said: "The due obedience issue has been discussed by the courts doing the trials involving the struggle against subversion." Rios Erenu recalled that this was a "necessary phase within the political framework of this problem."

Concerning last week's rebellion, Rios Erenu said that it is a "much broader problem." He said: "It is only necessary to study the motivations that allegedly prompted the movement" in order to understand the events. Rios Erenu recalled that "in their first point, the rebels stated that the constitutional order was respected; in their second, they stated that they oppose the trials because they were unconstitutional; and, in their third, they spoke of the attacks by the mass media. However, these matters are not the responsibility of the Army chief of staff but are dealt with at a different level." Rios Erenu reflected: "Thus, I do not know whether the reasons mentioned in those points to justify the movement are not [word indistinct] to something deeper. This [words indistinct] who raised this problem." Then, Rios Erenu added that discipline in the Army "has been restored following the military rules and regulations, which provide the necessary guidelines and methods to implement it."

The former chief of staff noted: "Here, we have experienced a highly emotional problem that has [word indistinct] rationality. Two essential parts of a human being have clashed." Rios Erenu added: "It is necessary for the heart to give way to reason and intelligence in order to achieve the restoration of discipline."

Giving a general explanation of the rebellion, Rios Erenu said: "The problem started with an officer who decided not to appear in court; then, the problem turned into an event of a political natural whose solution was in the hands of the president of the Republic."

Rios Erenu then recalled the meeting he held on the evening of 18 April with the Army leadership "to explain that we [words indistinct] the action of a group that conducted the rebellion and a large part of the Army was astonished by the events."

Rios Erenu admitted that there was a moment of "no reaction," which prevented moving on the rebels because "feelings overwhelmed the officers who were to repress the rebels and they failed to enforce the laws and the military rules and regulations."

"On the evening of 21 April, I spoke to the unit commanders. I explained to them all the drawbacks and problems of that attitude, not only within the Army but [words indistinct]," Rios Erenu added. "The possibility of a civilian-military clash would have left deep wounds that would have taken a long time to heal," said Rios Erenu. He added that "that insanity was also noticed by the president of the Republic, who not only mentioned it but wanted to prevent it, especially in the military field because otherwise, serious wounds would have resulted."

Rios Erenu concluded by stating: "This is the real problem upon which everyone who was involved should reflect. This situation should not be an obstacle to achieving national reconciliation and overcoming problems, either problems in the military field or problems being experienced by the country. Such problems are extrememly serious and require that Argentines put their minds and hearts at the service [words indistinct] leaving aside sectorial interests."

SIDE LEADER SUAREZ DISCUSSES EASTER REBELLION

PY231527 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1205 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Apr (NA) -- Facundo Suarez, head of the State Intelligence Secretariat (SIDE), today disclosed that several retired officers, whom he did not identify, "incited the young Army officers" to rebel against the Army leadership. He added that although the SIDE was aware of the unrest that existed within the Army it did not know "on what day they were going to rebel."

He also said that the stance of rightist sectors "worsened the situation by its psychological action," and that the constant insults against the Army by "leftist sectors, or more than leftists, indeed by very radical individuals, regarding the trial of military men" had something to do with the events that took place during the Easter weekend.

In a statement to Radio Continental, Suarez said that, regarding the incidents that took place in Cordoba with former Major Ernesto Barreiro, "we were aware of the unrest but we really did not know where and how Barreiro would act." He said that according to the information available "it was known that there was great unrest over the trials which resulted from the serious violations of human rights' but that "there was no intention to disrupt the constitutional order." Suarez said that after such a difficult situation "or rather, a problem of indiscipline, as serious as the one that took place" the defense minister and his entire team "are working" with the new "official sectors" to "put things in order."

The head of the SIDE said that events such as the ones which took place over the Easter weekend can sometimes be "foreseen, what cannot be foreseen is when" and noted that "the Intelligence Service and the CNI [National Intelligence Center], which is responsible for coordinating all the services, were aware that there were groups where problems had surfaced." Suarez added that "in February, Mr Venturino, who was one of the key men in this regrettable incident, encountered some problems with the intelligence deputy chief, and this prompted his exit from the CNI and return to the Army. However, Suarez Lastra admitted that Lieutenant Colonel Jorge Venturino was dismissed from the CNI "not because he was caught red-handed," but because he voiced "his full disagreement with the policy followed during the trials and this determined that he could no longer work with the intelligence service, and for this reasons his transfer was requested."

Suarez Lastra also admitted that he did not believe that "this man would go as far as he did" although "he publicly voiced his disagreement over those subjects." Regarding the head of the rebels, Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico, the head of the SIDE said "we had reported that Rico had visibly voiced his disagreement" with the trials "and we also reported that there was a group of officers which publicly expressed their disagreement."

Regarding the events in Cordoba involving former Major Ernesto Barreiro he said that "we were aware of the unrest, but we really did not know where and how Barreiro could act."

"The confirmed information available concerned officers that had publicly voiced their disagreement over the subject. This is, on the other hand, a problem currently being handled by the defense minister, and which respond to definite indisciplinary actions." Facundo Suarez added that "the information we had never indicated that there was any intention to disrupt the institutional order, but that there was great unrest over the trials." He added that "the rest is part of an investigation currently underway."

Suarez also admitted that although they were aware of the officers' unrest "we did not know the day on which they were going to rebel." He explained that there was "a great influence by many retired officers on the subject. They were some that really incited the young Army officers to take action." He said that "this was due to a very active psychological action by groups who took advantage of the attitude and temperament of the retired officers for their psychological campaign." [indistinct paragraph]

Suarez said that if the subject of the due obedience has been delayed it is because, among other things, "the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces has been processing the trials for 3 years, and one cannot expect the court to pass down a sentence in 4 months." He noted that, during the incidents, retired officers were seen at the Campo de Mayo Infantry School, but of course "not all of them went there to create difficulties, many went to try and get their former subordinates to reflect."

Suarez praised Cardinal Raul Primatesta, bishop of Cordoba and head of the Episcopal Conference, who in the case of the infantry unit of this province "played an important role in dissuading the rebel officers, more than in dissuading Barreiro." The head of the SIDE said that "the government is thankful to Primatesta for his pastoral and patriotic attitude because he went on two or three occasions, and his mission convinced the officers to remain loyal. He thus fulfilled his pastoral mission of avoiding confrontations."

He said that Military Vicar Miguel Medina, as well as other priests, "took part in the recent events, trying to prevent them from going to extremes" and added that "they informed the authorities of their actions and we consider it a sound and serious contribution." Suarez ended by stating that the whereabouts of Barreiro, who fled from the Cordoba unit, is "a problem that we and the Federal Police are trying to solve."

CGT COUNCIL DECIDES TO LIFT STATE OF ALERT

PY232251 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Apr 87 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- The General Confederation of Labour (CGT) directive council yesterday decided to lift the state of alert called on Tuesday in response to news of military uprisings in Salta and Tucuman and suspended a plenary meeting of secretaries-general.

CGT Secretary-General Saul Ubaldini said the measure was taken after news on the final solution to the military crisis reached CGT headquarters.

Ubaldini said he was expecting to meet with Labour Minister Carlos Alderete in order to discuss the conflicts in some unions including bus drivers and teachers.

The CGT directive council released a statement calling for an immediate wage hike for workers and pensioners after considering the military crisis was over.

Ubaldini underlined the CGT "will not sign" any social pact without consulting grass roots labour organizations "regardless of the anxiety it might cause on the government and especially the economy ministry."

The CGT secretary-general said Alderete met with President Raul Alfonsin yesterday to communicate CGT demands including:

Respect for international agreements signed by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

-- The repeal of all labour legislation dating back to the military dictatorship.

-- Participation of public employees in decisions concerning their sector.

-- A collective wage bargaining bill based on Law 14,250 sanctioned by the 1973-76 Peronist government.

-- An immediate wage hike to compensate for unexpected inflation during 1986 and the first quarter of 1987.

-- A prompt solution to labour conflicts (bus drivers, teachers, railway workers, state clerks, etc.)

SMATA [Trade Union of Mechanics and Related Automotive Transportation Workers] auto workers union leader Raul Amin said the CGT "agrees with the objective of reaching a social pact on the basis of economic growth" but pointed out some aspects of the accord had to be reviewed in view of the "hastiness" shown by the Economy Ministry.

The Lower House Labour Legislation Committee meanwhile began treatment of legislation governing labour contracts in the absence of Alderete, who had to attend a Cabinet meeting called by Alfonsin.

Committee Chairman Ricardo Terrile (Radical-Santa-Fe) suggested talks should begin without the presence of Alderete after the legislators were informed that the minister would not attend the scheduled meeting.

Terrile had earlier said that agreement with Peronist deputies on the subject was very close. The freedom of collective wage bargaining and whether to index-link wages in any way remain the main social pact issues.

CTERA [Confederation of Education Workers of the Argentine Republic] teachers union assistant Secretary-General Juan Carlos Valdez meanwhile revealed that CTERA might decide to lift a strike called for April 28 in view of the military crisis.

Valdez said the recent events have shown the need for an "unrestricted support for the democratic and constitutional government."

The final decision on the possibility of lifting the strike will come after a CTERA committee meeting on Saturday.

Transport workers in Cordoba yesterday lifted a 24-hour strike called by their union to protest the firing of two workers but some bus lines ignored the decision and continued with the protest measure.

The total number of fired workers has reached 35 while a new conciliatory meeting with the FATAP bus owners federation is scheduled for today.

Finally, ATE [Association of State Workers] state workers union leader Victor de Genaro and UPCN [National Civil Service Personnel Union] civil servants leader Miguel Candore said ATE members would strike if the government continued to unilaterally fix wage increases by decree. He was responding to rumours that pay hikes for the second quarter of the year would range between four and 15 percent.

SPOKESMAN DENIES CABINET POST OFFERED TO PERONISTS

PY232303 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2124 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Apr (TELAM) -- Presidential Spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez has reported that President Raul Alfonsin this morning met for an hour with leaders of the Peronist Renewal Faction. Lopez flatly denied, however, that Alfonsin had offered the Peronists Cabinet posts (the interior and defense ministries). Lopez told newsmen at Government House that the president has expressed his indignation over this report. Lopez confirmed that the president met with leaders of the Peronist Renewal Faction from 0900 to 1000 at the Olivos Residence. He described the report as an attempt to undermine the president's dialogue with Argentine political leaders.

Source of the Peronist Renewal Faction have reported that the meeting with Alfonsin was attended by Antonio Cafiero, Jose Manuel de la Sota, Octavio Bordon, [name indistinct], and Jose Luis Manzano.

21 APR ATTACK ON MENDOZA AIR BASE REPORTED

PY232238 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2150 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Mendoza, 23 Apr (DYN) -- Air Force sources today reported that in an unclear episode that occurred on 21 April, an Air Force union was sprayed with bullets fired by unidentified individuals in a car.

It was officially reported in Mendoza that that the attack was perpetrated last Tuesday at 0100 at the main gate of the 4th Air Force Brigade, headquartered in Mendoza.

The perpetrators of the attack were in a white Peugeot, which reportedly left a parking lot near the Air Force barracks, eyewitnesses said.

The episode was confirmed by Colonel Wilson Pedrozo, the 4th Air Force brigade commander. The 4th Air Force base is located next to the local El Plumerillo airport.

Pedrozo said that four shots were heard suddenly. The shots were apparently fired "by an automatic weapon and hit a booth where a sentry was on guard."

MINISTER ANNOUNCES COMMERCIAL DEBT RESCHEDULING

PY152239 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2209 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Apr (TELAM) -- Finance Secretary Mario Brodersohn today announced the rescheduling of the entire $30 billion debt contracted by Argentina with commercial banks over a 19-year period, with a 7-year grace period. Brodersohn added that Argentina obtained a lower interest rate, which is equivalent to the lowest agreed upon with the creditor banks and which will result in a saving of $5.3 billion over 19 years.

In a news conference, Brodersohn announced the details of the renegotiation of the Argentine foreign debt. He made it clear that Argentina obtained $1.95 billion of fresh money which, along with additional loans granted by other governments, will bring the total to $2.15 billion, that is, the amount required to meet our national growth objectives.

Brodersohn opened the news conference by outlining the basic guidelines followed during the negotiations, which reached a prompt, serious, responsible agreement. He said: I believe we have accomplished these objectives.

Deputies Cesar Jarolslavsky and Raul Baglini are also attending the news conference at the Finance Palace.

GOVERNMENT TO SEEK SOCIAL-ECONOMIC PACT

PY221306 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1430 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Apr (NA) -- The government is seeking to sign an agreement with businessmen and workers [words indistinct] the national economy, to hold down inflation, to preserve real incomes, and to deal with other problems.

The draft of the agreement, which has been prepared by the Economy Ministry, comprises an introduction, 17 points, and two annexes dealing with labor issues and public enterprises. Following are the 17 points contained in the draft agreement:

1. To coordinate sectorial demands in order to ensure stability and fair distribution, so as to attain competitive and sustained growth.

2. In order to continue with the process of reform, modernization, and diversification of the industrial, agricultural, and services structure, the signers recognize the need:

-- To reassign the efficient allocation of productive resources;
-- To increase the competitiveness of the economy and monopoly markets to reduce its control as the normal operation of the market increases;
-- To redefine priorities, to reform and reduce the structure of the public sector on the basis of efficiency and solidarity;
-- To review the rules of labor relations in order to attain greater competitiveness and productivity of the economy;
-- To make the necessary changes so that the financial system can play its role of an efficient intermediary between savings and productive investments.

3. To secure a commitment from the variuos social sectors within the process of reform and modernization of the economic and social structures.

4. To accept that the burden of the reform and modernization process must be borne mainly by those who have a greater economic and financial capacity to make real contribution, equally distributing the burden and preserving the capacity to invest.

5. To sustain the level of economic activity over the short term, and to implement structural reforms so as to make viable a sustained and ambitious growth process.

6. To adequately protect the internal productive activities in the context of greater participation of the national economy in the world. To this end, less cumbersome and more effective (?legislation) is necessary to counter unfair international trade practices, as well as the [words indistinct] of all the means available to the developed countries for the adequate protection of their economies, [words indistinct] compatible with the maintenance of high and stable real exchange rate and an increasing [word indistinct] of export incentives.

8. [Number as received] To achieve greater participation by the Argentine economy in the world's commercial and technological exchanges, placing emphasis on Latin American integration.

9. To maintain and progressively improve the level of real salaries and employment through a growth policy based on the active participation of private productive investments.

10. To abide by a criterion of economic rationality for the geographical distribution of investments.

11. To reallocate public expenditures, giving priority to those investments in the economic infrastructure whose internal or foreign financing is guaranteed and whose profitability is greater in terms of growth policy.

12. To recognize that the productivity of the economy and the scarcity of resources demand [words indistinct] the level of state revenues. It can then be agreed that the need for tax legislation should progressively contemplate criteria to stimulate investments and low tax assessment, recognizing that, by expanding the tax base and curbing tax evasion, it will be possible to reduce assessed percentages.

14. [Number as received] To reduce the size of the entrepreneurial state, promoting private participation within the context of competitiveness, thus increasing the efficiency of the public enterprises that have not been transferred to the private sector.

15. To recognize that monetary policy must be directed at attaining sustained economic growth in a non-inflationary context.

16. The signers agree on the need to support, in foreign debt negotiations, any policy intended to reduce the transfer of net resources abroad, and, consequently, to contribute to economic growth.

17. To complement structural reform policies that will make sustained growth viable with policies that can equally distribute the cost and benefits of the reform and modernization process.

FINANCE MINISTER FUNARO TO LEAVE POST 27 APRIL

PY240347 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 23 Apr 87 p 1

[Text] Finance Minister Dilson Funaro will leave his post the same day President Sarney appoints a new civilian household chief to replace Marco Maciel. It is believed Sarney will make the change on Tuesday, 27 April. Sarney revealed this to trusted aides after meeting yesterday morning with Ulysses Guimaraes, president of the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party [PMDB] and after having lunch with Mario Covas, leader of the PMDB at the Constituent Assembly, and Senator Jose Richa. The two senators left Alvorada Palace convinced that the Cabinet changes will be implemented in only one stage. Maciel, who verbally tendered his resignation, was planning to resume his office as a senator, but the president asked him to remain in office until his replacement is appointed. It has already been decided that his replacement will be a PMDB politician.

20,000 METALWORKERS STRIKE IN RIO DE JANEIRO

PY240119 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2255 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Employees of the Rio de Janeiro Volta Redonda Steel Plant are on strike. The 20,000 metalworkers of the National Iron and Steel Company [CSN] have been on strike since last night. They are demanding a 120-percent wage hike. The CSN board has offered them a 30-percent increase in addition to the escalator clause.

The metalworkers have decided to occupy the enterprise peacefully and without incident. Fears had been expressed that the company might be occupied by the Eastern Military Command, but this has not happened.

The great machines have stopped and the daily production of 12,600 tons of steel has been suspended. When everything there stops, the country's economy receives a shock.

In December 1986, only 1 day of stoppage caused a loss of 50 million cruzados, according to the CSN. If the metalworkers decide to stop their activities for some time in the current strike, the daily loss will be around 90 million cruzados.

The other damage poiinted out by the CSN occurred when the metalworkers turned a control switch in an ingot metal machine. The machine broke down, causing a blackout. The company will have to pay between $80,000 and $100,000 to repair the damage.

But the greatest damage occurs when some of the blast furnaces are deactivated. These furnaces produce pig iron, the most important element for the manufacture of steel. This furnace alone, the largest one, produces 7,400 tons daily. This huge furnace stopped working at 0430 this morning.

In Rio de Janeiro, directors of the CSN and representatives of the Volta Redonda metalworkers met at the Regional Labor Court [TRT]. Judge Jose Teofilo Clementino presented a proposal for reconciliation: A 75-percent salary increase with no escalator clause. Another meeting will be held tomorrow at the TRT between CSN directors and leaders of the metalworkers union.

NUCLEAR FUEL PACT SIGNED WITH ARGENTINA

PY240215 Paris AFP in Spanish 2333 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 23 Apr (AFP) -- Rex Nazare, president of the Brazilian National Commission for Nuclear Energy, said today in Rio de Janeiro that within 2 years, Brazil and Argentina will jointly produce fuel elements with a low percentage of enriched uranium for research reactors.

Nazare told reporters that when the two countries reach that goal, they will liberate themselves from foreign dependency and will take a very important step for the domination of nuclear technology for peaceful use. Rex Nazare reported that the agreement to carry out that project was signed at the fourth meeting of the Argentine-Brazilian Nuclear Cooperation, which concluded meetings in Rio de Janeiro today.

The Argentine delegation, lead by Jorge Sabato, secretary of state of international relations, included Adolfo Saracho, director of nuclear affairs and disarmament, and Captain Roberto Ornstein of the Argentine National Commission for Atomic Energy.

Sebastiao do Rego Barros Neto headed the Brazilian delegation, which included Rex Nazare.

The agreement to jointly produce fuel elements with a low percentage of enriched uranium for research reactors states that the first meeting for this purpose of specialists of the two countries will be held next May. The inventory of instruments and radiation equipment in the two countries to verify if dependency on third countries can be totally eliminated will conclude next May.

Nazare reported that in the area of protection, Brazil and Argentina are developing the process needed to establish total control over the material used in the two countries. He added that the technology to enrich uranium for the fuel elements of the research reactors will replace the highly enriched uranium fuel elements used in the past. He also noted that this shows the clear intention of the two countries to use those fuel elements only for peaceful purposes. He added that the agreement for the production of stable isotopes was signed on 20 November 1985 in Foz do Iguazu on the occasion of the meeting between Jose Sarney and Raul Alfonsin.

In a brief communique released tonight, the delegations reported that the fourth meeting of the working group of the Argentine-Brazilian Nuclear Cooperation conducted legal and technical studies on matters of nuclear cooperation. The communique indicated that the working group also studied the results of the contacts between business groups of the two countries, the coordination of their respective nuclear policies in international meetings, and the works developed by the technical groups established in Protocol 17. The protocol, which was signed on 30 November 1985 in Fox do Iguazu, notes, among other things, the decision to cooperate for the joint development of high-density fuel elements for research reactors. The nuclear programs developed by Brazil and Argentina differ in the fuels used. Brazil uses enriched uranium, while Argentina uses natural uranium.

In November 1983 Argentina announced that it achieved the technological know-how to produce enriched uranium but Brazil has not yet reached that goal. Rex Nazare recently said that Brazil will obtain the complete cycle of nuclear fuel somewhere between 1990 and 1992.

ARMY ACCUSES FARC OF VIOLATING TRUCE AGREEMENT

PA230255 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Bogota -- At a meeting with the members of the National Conservative Directorate on Monday night, Defense Minister Rafael Samudio Molina announced the Armed Forces believe that FARC is not complying with the truce agreements and that on the contrary, it is splitting its front to increase its violent activities.

Despite the silence that has prevailed regarding the topics discussed at the meeting, CARACOL has been informed that General Samudio Molina presented reports critical of FARC, pointing out that the organization is involved in the escalation of violence unleashed by the subversive groups over the past few months.

Gabriel Melo Guevara, president of the conservative directorate; and Senator Alvaro Leiva Duran confirmed to CARACOL that the Army had made the report against FARC. Both men seemed very concerned over the increased violence; according to Senator Leiva Duran, the situation is very delicate and the truce agreements are at stake. He warned during the conservative directorate meeting that President Barco and presidential adviser Carlos Ossa Escobar should publicly name the transnational companies that have paid a group of terrorists in exchange for being allowed to operate in a petroleum producing zone; he said concealment of this information from justice constitutes a violation of the penal code.

The defense minister, when questioned by the senator, said he has no knowledge of the case reported by the president and Ossa Escobar in statements to the press.

UP STOPPAGE MAY AFFECT OIL REFINERY ACTIVITY

PA231930 Bogota Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] The Patriotic Unity [UP] is planning a civic stoppage in Antioquia to protest the attacks against members of that political group in Barrancabermeja and throughout the country in general. Activities at the petroleum production center were practically paralyzed this morning. Ricardo Canones now reports:

[Begin recording] [Canones] A civic stoppage began this morning in Barrancabermeja municipality, Santander Department to protest the lack of security, inefficient public services, and lack of sewers through most of the city. This stoppage also threatens to affect the production and refining of petroleum, if it continues. This situation has been prevailing for some time and now threatens to worsen with the terrorist attack against Cesar Martinez and (Alirio Treanslavinia), two UP representatives who were organizing the civic stoppage in the oil port.

In addition to the stoppage that began today at 0500, the UP took over all roads leading to the city and suspended all commerical activities. Ecopetrol [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise] has been greatly affected, as it has been unable to mobilze 80 percent of its workers from the production and refining area to the industrial complex.

The roadblocks do not allow persons or vehicles to circulate and also affects the workers who were on the night shift and were forced to remain at work. Meanwhile, the municipal, departmental, and national authorities are seeking a rapprochement with the organizers of the stoppage to reach a solution to the social conflict that so far is being handled in a peaceful manner. [end recording]

CONGRESS PRESIDENT OPPOSES FEBRES TRIAL

PA231947 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Explaining to the deputies the reasons to not call President Leon Febres Cordero to a political trial, Congress President Andres Vallejos Arcos said that we cannot play the political game of the president of the Republic.

[Begin Vallejos recording] I believe, and I respect the opinions of [words indistinct] that to call the president of the Republic to a political trial at this moment would be a favor to him. I believe that such an action would strengten the position of the president of the Republic, which at this time is weakened throughout the country.

I have not dared say, as Deputy [Jorge] Moreno regrettably said, that deputies who have presented the request to call the president to trial are playing the president's game. Deputies, I have not dared say that. I have indeed said that such a political action -- which I still maintain was good-intentioned and simply reflects a position of the opposition, with no ulterior motives -- is the wrong position.

Regarding people's opinions, I do respect the opinions of those who have made such a request. I also want to ask them to respect my opinion and to abstain from making evil insinuations as those evil remarks made about me. I strongly reject such remarks. I am not so irresponsible as to say that those deputies who have made such a request are doing it as a favor and to play the government's game, even though such a result could emerge from that political action.

I do not act in such an irresponsible way precisely because I respect you, Deputies. I believe that there are very responsible deputies who have good intentions among those who signed the petition.

I have not said either that I will not convoke this political trial because I believe that to convoke a political trial there must be [words indistinct] sufficient votes in order for the action to be successful. I have never said that. I also think that this is a commentary on behalf of the entire country because it is unanimous in the sense that an action of this nature -- which is not a simple action of supervising a state minister -- cannot take the risk of failing, which would mean strengthening the accused party in the long run. I will not play that game. [end recording]

PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER SWETT ON ECONOMIC SITUATION

PA231743 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Presidential adviser Francisco Swett Morales has emphatically reiterated that the rapid rise of the U.S. dollar to over 165 sucres is due to the political decision by the Constitutional Guarantees Tribunal to invalidate Articles 2 and 3 of Regulation No 367-86 on floating interest rates issued by the Monetary Boards.

Swett noted that although the Constitutional Guarantees Tribunal's decision do not have the force of law, the organization has sufficient power to undermine the structures of the economic plan implemented by the national government.

[Begin recording] [Swett, in progress] ...that since there has been a cataclysm of news, an economic cataclysm, despite its many efforts, the government was unable to prevent speculation. Speculation is not something that can be controlled totally and efficiently. Moreover, this cannot be done in an atmosphere as sensitive as the exchange market. This is the situation.

[Question indistinct]

[Swett] Well, the mechanism applied by the national government has been precisely the regulation of liquidity in the economy. That is the mechanism; it is an adequate mechanism. However, although it is necessary, it is not sufficient to control this situation. We must, however, remain calm and have confidence that national economic policy will not change despite these regrettable acts of interference and distortions that have occurred due to the effects of the resolution by the Constitutional Guarantees Tribunal.

[Question indistinct]

[Swett] Listen, the important thing here is for the exchange rate to reflect the real circumstances of the economy. You will agree with me that for 13 March to date there have been no real conditions that justify a 20-sucre increase in the exchange rate. By coincidence, the 20-billion-sucre increase in the cost of imports is equivalent to the projected fiscal income for the entire year as a result of the increase in fuel prices. This gives an idea of the importance of what has happened. [end recording]

In this regard, Swett concluded by saying that the regrettable decision by the Constitutional Guarantees Tribunal of attempting to invalidate the effects of Regulation No 367-86 issued by the Monetary Board has seriously affected the people's confidence. The attempt to hinder the authority of the Monetary Board through an administrative action has been interpreted by the public as an attempt by an important sector of the political opposition to dismantle one of the fundamental supports of the economic policy.

NEW SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTER ASSUMES OFFICE

PA230236 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Dr Aquiles Rigail Santistevan, the new social welfare minister who assumed office on Tuesday before President Leon Febres Cordero and several ministers of state, said: It is not time for confrontation or war, but a time for work and consensus.

Minister Rigail pointed out that he will advocate a policy of total openness toward all political sectors and ensure that the work of his ministry will not be politicized. [passage omitted]

BEDE ANNOUNCES CUTS, CHANGES IN CREDIT POLICY

PA201649 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Apr 87

[All figures as heard]

[Text] The Development Bank of Ecuador [BEDE] will be unable to grant more loans this year than it did last year, that is, 13 billion sucres. A partner of the oil enterprise, it is losing 240 million sucres for each declining dollar in the price of crude oil exports. As a result of the crisis caused by the suspension of oil exports, the BEDE will be forced to establish a highly selective criteria to grant loans. The criteria is to be based on the analysis conducted by BEDE Manager (Marco Flores).

The BEDE's credit policy for this year is being completely overhauled. It is expected that in the next few days, the policy will be submitted for review by the bank's board of directors. Applications for loans, totaling 26,977 billion sucres, exclusively earmarked for investments of the public sector, are currently being assessed for approval. Moreover, loan applications that total 2,618 billion sucres of the above-mentioned figure are already being processed. The review of the remaining applications, which add up to 24,358 billion sucres, was postponed. According to (Flores), this amount greatly exceeds the bank's available resources and plans.

In his analysis, (Flores) noted that crisis mandated the implementation of a plan to compensate the revenue losses as the number of loan applications grows. He added that the borrowers' capacity to pay and the importance of the investment will be thoroughly reviewed before a loan is approved.

PIPELINE LINKING OIL FIELDS WITH COLOMBIA BUILT

PA230349 Quito Vos de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Today, construction ended on a stretch of the emergency pipeline between Ecuadoran Lago Agrio oil fields in northern Amazonic Napo Province and the border with Colombia. This emergency route will permit Ecuador to send 50,000 barrels of crude a day through Colombia for refining in coastal Esmeraldas Province. The governments of the two countries agreed on the construction project after the 5 March earthquake, which devastated Ecuador's northeastern zone, and destroyed part of this country's oil infrastructure. This situation led to a standstill in the production of crude oil.

EL PERUANO ISSUES TEXT OF DEFENSE MINISTRY LAW

PY151446 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 2 Apr 87 p 4

[Text] Peruvian President Alan Garcia has signed into law Bill No 24654, creating the Defense Ministry. The text of the law was published yesterday in the official daily EL PERUANO.

The new ministry will merge the War, Navy, and Air Force Ministries, and its objective will be to formulate and disseminate the doctrine of security and national defense.

The creation of the Defense Ministry, the second portfolio created by the present administration -- the first one was the Presidential Secretariat, which was approved in August 1985 -- has reduced the number of ministries to 15. Herewith is the text of the law:

Law No 24654

The President of the Republic

Whereas

the Congress of the Republic of Peru issues the following law:

Article 1. The Defense Ministry is herewith created to replace the Ministries of War, Navy, and Air Force; the Joint Command of the Armed Forces, the National Defense Secretariat and the advisory, consultative, planning, logistics and control departments. The main objective of the ministry, as the central agency of the country's main defense system, is to formulate and disseminate the doctrine of security and national defense, which must serve the interests of the Peruvian people and is based on basic respect for values and the essential rights of the individual and the community.

Article 2. The Defense Ministry, as part of the government administration structure has the following functions:

a) To be in charge of planning and coordinating the national defense system;

b) to formulate, supervise, and execute the policy of national defense in the military field; and

c) to make sure the Armed Forces participate in social and economic development and civil defense.

Article 3. The Defense Ministry is to be headed by the Defense Minister and it includes:

a) the minister's offices:

b) the National Defense Secretariat and related departments;

c) the Armed Forces Joint Command and other departments which may be required by said command's internal regulations.

d) the Armed Forces: Army, Navy, and Air Force; and

e) other autonomous public agencies that fall under the jurisdiction of the Defense Ministry.

Article 4. The Defense Minister is the highest authority of the Defense Ministry. He cooperates with the president as a member of his administration and is responsible for formulating his defense policy. The minister has the following prerogatives and responsibilities:

a) to advise the president on national defense in general and military matters in particuar;

b) to direct and supervise the activities of the ministry;

c) to define the objectives and policies of the Armed Forces regarding national defense and social and economc development;

d) to define the objectives and policies of the Armed Forces for their participation in civil defense;

e) to draw up, direct, and supervise the implementation of these policies;

f) to supervise and control the activities of the autonomous public agencies under the jurisdiction of the Defense Ministry;

g) to particpate together with other public administration departments in the handling of matters related to national defense;

h) to promote the drafting and dissemination of the national defense policy in keeping with the principles set forth in Article 1 of the present law.

i) to ensure the adequate and timely gathering and production of strategic intelligence capable of assisting in the performance of national defense activities in the military field;

j) to promote the active participation of all individuals and corporations, institutions and organizations in national defense; and

k) to exercise other duties and responsibilities vested in him by the Constitution and the laws.

Article 5. According to Article 188 and paragraph 10 of Article 21 of the National Constitution, the Executive Branch is hereby empowered to issue, whithin 180 days at the most after the publication of this law, legislative decrees approving the following complementary instruments:

a) the organizational law of the Defense Ministry.

b) the modifications, substitutions, and amendments to legislative decrees No 130, 133, 217 insofar they have to with the present law.

c) the modifications, substitutions and amendments to Decree Law No 22653 and complementary laws that have to do with Defense System Organizations.

The Executive Branch will be held accountable to Congress over the use made of this delegation of legislative power.

Article 6. All other laws which are not in agreement with the present law are hereby abrogated. This law will go into effect on the day after its publication in the official daily EL PERUANO.

The president of the nation is hereby empowered to enact this law.

Issued in Congress in Lima on 28 March 1987
Armando Villanueva del Campo, president of the Senate
Fernando Leon de Vivero, president of the Chamber of Deputies
Raul Acosta Rengifo, secretary of state
Joffre Fernandez Valdivieso, secretary of the Chamber of Deputies.

Thereby, the president of the Republic herewith orders that the present law be published and enacted.

Issued at Government House, in Lima on 31 March 1987
Alan Garcia Perez, constitutional president of the Republic.
Luis Alva Castro, president of the Council of Ministers and Economy and Finance Minister.

DAILY CALLS ANDEAN SUMMIT WITH REAGAN 'INCONVENIENT'

PY231443 Paris AFP in Spanish 1624 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Lima, 22 Apr (AFP) -- Today's newspaper LA REPUBLICA of Lima rejected the idea of a meeting between President Ronald Reagan and five presidents of the Andean group countries, calling it inconvenient. In its editorial, the newspaper states that the meeting would inevitably take place during Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Latin America, and Reagan would literally cross his path.

The editorial states that Bolivian President Paz Estenssoro could not have chosen a worse time for suggesting a summit among the presidents of Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, and the United States to discuss the struggle against drug trafficking in the region.

LA REPUBLICA also rejects the summit with Reagan because of his behavior regarding the Central American crisis, hindering the peace efforts of the Contadora Group and its Support Group.

The newspaper argues that the United States applies laws that affect trade with the Andean countries, hindering their integration.

The editorial asks, therefore, if it is convenient to hold a summit under the present continental circumstances.

PETROPERU STRIKE DECLARED ILLEGAL 23 APRIL

PY231547 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0130 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Excerpts] The Petroperu workers strike has been declared illegal. It has been reported, however, that so far, not one barrel of oil has been lost as a result of the strike. [passage omitted]

We can also report that Petroperu facilities where fuels, lubricants, and other oil by-products are produced, refined, and sold were declared in a state of emergency.

The measure was adopted because the strike being staged by Petroperu workers is creating a critical situation in the sectors of production, refining, petrochemistry, and sale of fuels, lubricants, and other oil by-products. It also takes into consideration the fact that the strike affects the strategic public services, thus endangering national security and defense. Therefore, it is necessary to guarantee the normal development and operation of the Petroperu, which is strategic.

SENATE'S STATEMENT CONDEMNS REGIONAL COUP ATTEMPTS

PY232210 Paris AFP in Spanish 1449 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Lima, 23 Apr (AFP) -- Last night, the Peruvian Senate unanimously approved a political statement, condemning attempts to subvert the constitutional order in Latin American countries. This statement is described as a response to recent developments in several Latin American nations, where acts of resistance to the constitutional power, especially in Ecuador, Peru, and Argentina, have taken place.

According to the statement, the effectiveness of public rights, the Constitution, the laws, and human rights, and the commitment of the leaders and the people to these rights and laws are the foundation of democracy.

Based on this premise, the Senate states that the attitude adopted by the governments of Peru, Ecuador, and Argentina, rejecting military pressures, is noteworthy. This attitude enhances credibility, confidence, and stability for the democratic system.

In addition, the Senate considers the position taken by the governments of these three nations must be understood as part of a historical process, leading to the elimination of dictatorships on our continent and turning the Armed Forces into a democratic institution of the state, in order to fully exercise national sovereignty.

The statement notes the need for a commitment to politically mature popular and institutional behavior and for a common front of democratic governments, peoples, and institutions, with a view toward making democracy the most dynamic and conspicious element of continental sovereignty.

The statement, which was unanimously and expeditiously approved, will be presented today to the Argentine and Ecuadorean Foreign Ministries and will be published as a congressional document.

BANKS, COCA-COLA COMPANY HIT BY TERRORIST ATTACKS

PY231447 Paris AFP in Spanish 0432 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Lima, 22 Apr (AFP) -- Police have reported that 10 banks and the transportation and distribution sections of the U.S. Coca-Cola Company were simultaneously attacked by terrorist commands last night. The terrorists used dynamite which caused damage but there were no victims.

Two subversives placed dynamite in the automatic teller of a bank located on Jiron La Union, the main boulevard in downtown Lima. The explosion broke the windows in several nearby buildings, and showered glass shards over several people who were not injured.

Meanwhile, 15 terrorists with machineguns attempted to occupy the transportation and distribution sections of the Coca-Cola Company located in the capital's industrial district. The company's security forces, who then received help from police, repelled the attack.

The shootout, which lasted several minutes, ended when the subversives hurled six dynamite sticks at the building. The criminals then covered their escape with several homemade bombs. Nevertheless, the police succeeded in arresting six of them.

The police also reported that other subversives hurled bombs from cars at 9 bank offices located throughout Lima.

BRIEFS

COCAINE SEIZED FROM VESSEL -- Iquitos customs authorities have discovered 20 kg of cocaine base paste on board Huallaga, a vessel bound for the Peruvian town of Islandia from where the drug was to have been smuggled into Colombia and Brazil. The owner of the shipment is still at large. [Summary] [Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 14 Mar 87 p 6 PY]

POLICE SEIZE COCAINE -- Iquitos, 18 Mar -- A customs patrol has seized 6 kg of cocaine base, which was leaving the Port of Islandia, off Leticia, in the Amazonian Triangle region, on board the Rocio vessel. The drug was hidden in the double bottom of a box of eggs. The police also seized 20 kg of cocaine base, hidden in kerosene cans, on board the Yurimaguas, and 12 kg of cocaine base, hidden among brooms, were seized on board the Andresito. [Summary] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 19 Mar 87 p A-11 PY]

PIP SEIZE COCAINE -- Personnel of the Peruvian Investigative Police [PIP], stationed at Sullana Province, have arrested drug trafficker Eladio Llacsahuanga Nunez, 27, while trying to contact an Ecuadorean, to whom he should have delivered 2 kg of cocaine base worth 80,000 intis. The drug had reportedly been purchased in San Martin Department. Llacsahuanga was arrested for drug trafficking on previous occasions. [Summary] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 19 Mar 87 p A-12 PY]

DRUG TRAFFICKERS DETAINED -- Chiclayo, 1 Apr -- The Peruvian Investigative Police [PIP] of this city have detained several drug traffickers, and seized more than 5 kg of cocaine paste. In the first instance, police detaine Santiago Flores Quiroz in downtown Chiclayo while he was carrying drugs in the wheels of his car. In his house, in the district of La Victoria of this city, the PIP found three bags containing 5 kg of cocaine base and detained Octavio Aguilar Velasquez. Following the investigations, the police also detained Avelino Farfan Avendano, Santiago Ancajima, and Beltran Farfan Ordonez, who was in possession of half a kilo of cocaine paste. [Summary] [Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 2 Apr 87 p 23 PY]

LUSINCHI SWEARS IN NEW MINISTERS, NAMES GOVERNORS

PA231211 Paris AFP in Spanish 2148 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Caracas, 22 Apr (AFP) -- Today, Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi swore in three new ministers of development, education, and planning, and appointed a fourth minister in the new post of adviser to the president.

The reshuffling of the Cabinet, which became known the day before, did not cause any major surprises. Moreover, it did not hint at any substantial changes in the current Social Democratic administration.

Hector Meneses, former deputy minister of finance, is now the new minister of development. He is replacing Gustavo Mirabal Bustillos.

Pedro Cabello Poleo, former governor of the State of Sucre and director of the INOS [National Institute of Sewers and Waterworks], is replacing Luis Manuel Carbonell.

In recent months, Carbonell was the minister who had to face the biggest problems. He had to deal with two strikes. School teachers went on strike for 12 days, and on Monday, university professors went on strike.

Modesto Freites Pinate took over as minister of coordination and planning. He is replacing Leopoldo Carnevali, who resigned 2 months ago.

Finally, President Lusinchi appointed Rear Admiral Andres Brito Martinez as the first minister of state and adviser to the president. The reshuffling included the replacement of five governors, who are the chief authorities in the states (provinces) in the interior of the country.

GOVERNMENT STRENGTHENS BORDER SECURITY

PA232227 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] The recent incidents on our border have been analyzed by Defense Minister General Jose Rafael Cardozo Grimaldi, who said that our safety is not in danger. The minister said that vigilance on the border has been reinforced thanks to the measures adopted by the national government, and he stressed that border defense has always been a concern of the Armed Forces.

[Begin Cardozo recording] The national government, through the Armed Forces and the state security organizations, has strengthened all of its border security mechanisms; I have been occupied recently with this task; in this regard, a special commando has been activated in the El Nula aea, which will operate basically in the districts of Apure State. The special commando is intended precisely to reinforce border defense and security. [end recording]

DEFENSE SECRETARY MEETS WEINBERGER IN WASHINGTON

PA231459 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] National Defense Secretary Juan Arevalo Gardoqui met in Washington with his counterpart, Caspar Weinberger, and analyzed the participation of the Mexican and U.S. Armed Forces in the struggle against drug trafficking.

Gen Arevalo Gardoqui presented a detailed report on the permanent operations againt sowing, cultivating, processing, and trafficking of drugs. He reiterated that Mexico is self-sufficient in combating drug trafficking. Therefore, the participation of U.S. trops in this activity is not necessary.

Weinberger expressed U.S. recognition to Mexico for its contributions in the struggle against drugs.

REPORT ON DEBT NEGOTIATIONS SENT TO CONGRESS

PA231650 Mexico City Red Nacional 12 Imevision Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Report by Claudio Guzman -- all figures as heard]

[Text] In a report sent to the Congress on recent agreements on Mexico's foreign debt, Finance Secretary Gustavo Petricioli has said that negotiations with international creditors to renegotiate debts and sign new financing agreements did not jeopardize the country's sovereignty and independence.

In the document, it is explained tht the results of the negotiation allow Mexico and its institutions to face the future calmly and wisely within a climate of economic and social stability.

It said that many efforts and sacrifices have been made to reach a situation characterized by the highest reserves in the history and with clear expectations for an economic recovery and the trust of Mexicans and foreigners in the country's future.

It noted that it cannot be said the foreign debt problem is resolved. However, it added, progress has been made in regard to the circumstances that prevailed in 1982. Back then, Mexico had no reserves, had declared a moratorium on payments of the principal, had no foreign credit, and was facing an overall climate of crisis an uncertainty.

The document explained the legal framework used to conduct foreign debt negotiations. It added that in view of the diversity of countries to which creditor banks belong, agreements are reached using legal provisions commonly accepted and used by most countries. The laws and jurisdictions used are those of New York and London, the world's main financial centers.

Therefore, Mexico, just like any borrowing country that resorts to international financial markets, abides by these practices and laws. In addition, Mexico makes sure its own laws and jurisdictions also apply in the agreements, thus maintaining its sovereignty and independence.

It also said any resolution issued by foreign judicial authorities can be implemented in our country, but only if they are in line with Mexican law which, among other provisions, states that no property of the nation can be used as collateral.

The Mexican finance secretary's report stated that in all cases, the nation's fiscal agent [procurador fiscal] and the legal director of the Bank of Mexico signed the documents. It stressed that in no case were properties of the nation used as collateral.

The document added that of the $7.7 billion obtained from international private banks, the country can use $3.5 billion immediately, on 30 April. Another $2.5 billion will be disbursed in quarterly drafts of $500 million each in 1987 and in the first quarter of 1988.

BRIEFS

MARIJUANA CONFISCATED -- Tijuana, Mexico, 13 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- First Commander Salvador Peralta Perez has reported that members of the Federal Judicial Police confiscated marijuana valued at 1,300 million pesos (over $300,000) after they detained two drug smugglers who were being disruptive on the streets. He explained that the brothers Francisco Javier and Luis Reynoso Hernandez, who were posing as Interpol agents, were detained at the port city of Ensenada. He added that, at the time of their detention, they were carrying a 9 mm submachinegun and, after a thorough investigation, it was found that they worked for Julio Elias Fillat, who is in charge of drug trafficking in this northwestern city. Elias Fillat was also detained and confessed where the 750 kg of marijuana were hidden. The drug was being guarded by Jose Manuel Ortiz Hernandez, who was also surrendered to the authorities. [Text] [Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0231 GMT 14 Apr 87 FL]

BOATS TRANSPORTING MARIJUANA CAPTURED -- The Mexican Navy captured two boats transporting marijuana and their crew members in national waters. The Queen Barbara yacht was captured 132 nautical miles northeast of Cape Catoche, and its crew members -- four Cubans residing in the United States -- were arrested, after they had thrown the drug overboard. In another operation, the fishing boat Peluche was captured in Santa Rosalia, Baja California Sur, and its four-member crew arrested. Residues of marijuana seeds were found during an inspection of the vessel. [Summary] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR (Los Estados section) in Spanish 9 Apr 87 p 4 PA]

COCAINE SEIZED IN SONORA -- The Office of the Attorney General yesterday reported that the Federal Judicial Police seized 39 kg of cocaine near San Luisito community in Cobarca municipality, Sonora. Narciso Valencia Gonzalez was arrested when the cocaine was found in his car. He was taking the drugs from Guadalajara to the United States. Valencia Gonzalez gave information regarding suppliers and receivers of the cocaine. [Summary] [Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 10 Apr 87 p 12 PA]

DRUG-CARRYING PLANE CRASHES -- A DC [as heard] airplane, loaded with over 6 tons of marijuana crashed 80 km from the city of San Luis Potosi. The aircraft damaged a few high-tension lines near the Los Compadres Ranch, but there were no victims. Neighbors claim to have seen three armed men flee. Officials of Military Zone XII confiscated the aircraft and cargo. Apparently the marijuana originated in Colombia and was on its way to the United States. [Text] [Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1955 GMT 13 Apr 87 PA]

COSTA RICA

GOVERNMENT DENIES CONTRAS PREPARING TO ATTACK

PA232135 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1957 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] San Jose, 23 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Costa Rican Public Security Minister Hernan Garron denied today that a contra army is getting ready to launch an attack from here against Nicaragua. The official denied reports from Managua announcing that "thousands of men" of the Nicaraguan Democratic Forces are concentrating in the northern region of Costa Rica to attack Sandinist posts along the neighboring San Juan River. Garron emphasized that "a 2,000-man army cannot be hidden" and that the Costa Rican border police have not detected any anti-Sandinist group in its constant patrolling of the area.

Migration officials and members of the Costa Rican Rural Guard carried out roundups this week near the Nicaraguan border and arrested several Nicaraguans, who turned out to be laborers from neighboring farms.

Nicaraguan opposiiton members exiled in this capital affirmed today that "the truth is that Eden Pastora's former captains have been operating inside Nicaragua and have been carrying out strong harassment activities against the Nicaraguan Army for several weeks." That "does not mean that a large-scale offensive is going to be launched -- as Managua fears -- because the guerrilla warfare strategy is going to be maintained for a long time," added the sources, who wished to remain anonymous.

MADRIGAL TRAVELS TO COUNTER PROPOSAL OPPOSITION

PA240125 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2356 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] San Jose, 23 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Costa Rica today confirmed that there is some opposition emerging in the Central American countries against President Osca Arias Sanchez' peace plan for Central America. A spokesman for the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry told ACAN-EFE that foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto's unexpected trip to Guatemala today is to discuss objections presented so far by the Governments of Honduras and El Salvador.

The foreign ministers of Honduras and El Salvador, Carlos Lopez Contreras and Ricardo Acevedo Peralta, respectively, rejected certain points of Arias' initiative, which will be evaluated by Central American presidents on 25 and 26 June in Esquipulas, Guatemala. Lopez Contreras said that the peace plan has several deficiencies, including a lack of definition in the establishment of verification and control systems, and fails to take internal opposition in conflict-ridden countries into consideration in peace-seeking processes. Meanwhile, Acevedo Peralta said the proposal fails to add new ideas to those already voiced by the Contadora Group (Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela). He added that in reply to Arias' initiative, the Salvadoran Government has a complete political plan that includes "simultaneity, multilateralism, verification, control, and a timetable."

President Arias said today that after his trip to Guatemala, Madrigal Nieto will travel to Washington to meet with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and explain to him "the main reasons moving Costa Rica to seek peace." The head of state said that the foreign minister will learn in Washington, he did not say when, the objections of certain countries, which he did not mention, towards his peace initiative.

Arias added that next Monday, during a meeting in this capital with Philip Habib, the White House's special envoy to Central America: "I will have the opportunity to discuss and find out the main objections" of the United States to our peace proposal.

EL SALVADOR

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES ARIAS PEACE PLAN

PA231335 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0146 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] San Salvador, 22 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta said here today that Costa Rican President Oscar Arias' plan had "broken the impasse" existing in Central America but that it requires "modifications and exact definitions."

Acevedo Peralta told newsmen that the Salvadoran attitude regarding the Arias plan covers "a complete political plan including simultaneity and multilaterality, verification, control, and timing."

It also includes a "strict security plan" and, as a third step, "a regional development plan presented to the free world that supports peace and democracy in Central America."

The foreign minister did not reveal specific modifications, but said "neither peace nor democracy can exist without development, even if we sign a thousand documents." He added that the Costa Rican proposal "was born as a draft discussion which needs to be modified."

Acevedo Peralta hinted, however, that the Nicaraguan regime is the main obstacle to reaching peace in the area, and he affirmed that it is necessary that Nicaragua "honor the commitments in ways that can be verified."

The Arias plan includes a cease-fire in the countries in conflict, the cessation of aid to the Nicaraguan contras, and holding elections that will come to a head in 1988 with the appointment of deputies for the Central American parliament.

It also forbids the use of national territory to attack neighboring countries, provides for the reduction of armaments in the five Central American countries, and calls for national and international supervision. To obtain results, the Salvadoran Government will propose at least four modifications:

To structure the plan chronologically, to put into order the work to be carried out;

To establish terms for the fulfillment of commitments, without forgetting that these must be simultaneously;

To condition the supervision of all actions and commitments assumed by all the area governments;

And the need to propose a global strategy to permit eradication of the causes of the crisis at their point of origin.

Acevedo Peralta referred continuously to the need that Nicaragua honor the commitments. He added that Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Costa Rica will hold a summit before 26 June, which is the date set for the Central American presidents' meeting in Esquipulas, Guatemala.

"The democratic countries must have a single position regarding the Arias plan," said Acevedo, "and this makes it necessary for us to meet and share our common ideas."

The minister insisted that it is necessary to "convince Nicaragua that war is not the solution to the problems of the area." He added that that country "must understand it has to make concessions in exchange for its consolidation."

The Salvadoran foreign policymaker also emphasized how necessary it is for Central America to reach peace so the international community may help the nations of the area. This "requires that all countries have a democratic, pluralist, and free process."

MINISTRY CONDEMNS ATTACK ON RADIO STATION

PA240033 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 23 Apr 87 p 35

[Communique issued by the Culture and Communications Ministry; date and place not given]

[Text] In view of the attack on the installations of the Catholic radio station YSAX -- "La Voz Panamericana" -- and the archbishopric offices, the Culture and Communications Ministry expresses its most vigorous rejection of that irrational act of violence against freedom of speech.

The strafing of the YSAX and the archbishopric offices, which was carried out by terrorists in an unidentified vehicle on 20 April, is a method used by cavemen in the midst of the 20th century and is a method used by obscurantist and backward sectors that do not accept the existence in this country of voices that disagree with them.

The democracy promoted by the current administration considers freedom of speech as one of its main pillars. That freedom is used by the various organizations to freely express their viewpoints. However, there are groups and people without legal capacity and known social activities that take advantage of that sacred right and turn it into licentiousness to slander and attack the government and its officials.

Since 1980, YSAX offices have been the target of two violent attacks. Before 1980, its transmission plants located in Mejicanos were blown up three times by ultrarightist squadrons in a failed attempt to silence a radio station that has its own identity and therefore disagrees with those who think that people who do not agree with or defend their selfish interests are enemies who had to be silenced by any means.

By expressing solidarity with the archbishopric and YSAX -- "La Voz Panamericana" -- the Culture and Communications Ministry reiterates its vigorous condemnation of those who masterminded and carried out the violent attack and urges all national sectors to come together to consolidate the democratic process and to keep lit the flame of freedom, independence, and the homeland's sovereignty.

GUATEMALA

PEASANTS RALLY FOR PROMISED FARMING LAND

PA232114 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Hundreds of peasants from the south coast, led by Father Andres Giron, met today in Central Plaza to protest President Cerezo's noncompliance with his agreement to give them land on Easter Monday, an agreement that had been given to Giron himself. The group included women and small children who support this Catholic priest's efforts. This afternoon, the peasants drank refreshments after several hours in the main park, having arrived there from different parts of the country. At midafternoon, several secretaries from the Presidency approached Father Andres to give him a personal message from President Vinicio Cerezo, but remained away from reporters while doing so.

An additional several thousand peasants intend to meet tomorrow in Central Plaza opposite the National Palace so President Cerezo will carry out, they say, his offer to hand over land in San Marcos Department. They are peasants from the Tecun Uman municipality in that department, to whom Cerezo himself allegedly promised on 21 December 1986 to hand over land in their name. According to the peasants, this has not been done. The Tucun Uman peasants also reported that they were supposedly victims of a deception by INTA [National Agrarian Transformation Institute] President, Engineer (Nery Samayoa), who has allegedly asked pro-land leader (Carlos Dubon) to gather together the peasants on Tuesday, because the land was going to be handed over to them at that time. The peasant leader said that since daybreak yesterday, many gathered to travel where they were supposedly to receive the land, but in the end, the INTA president explained in a telephone conversation that the purchase of the land had not been possible. According to the peasants, this situation forces them to travel to the capital to demand that the president carry out his 1986 promise.

These peasants are in addition to the hundreds that met this morning at Central Plaza to ask for the land that Father Andres is requesting. It was established that one of President Cerezo's secretaries told Giron today that the handing over of the land would not take place until May, to which Father Andres reportedly said: They demand it today. After this, Father Andres, referring to the situation, said they are willing to start a fast to get the government to keep the promise for land.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Father, what did you talk about with one of the president's secretaries?

[Giron] He sent his greetings to all the peasants and said that the land would be given. I said it was now or never [words indistinct]. That is all we talked about. I will have to speak first to the directors to see what will be decided before making a statement. I do not believe the people would be willing to leave just because in the mind of president the land will not be turned over until the end of this [as heard] month. We do not want anyone to handle this except the peasants themselves. This is all we ask the government. We do not want the peasants manipulated or the matter politicized.

[Reporter] Were they asked to leave?

[Giron] No, no -- he only sent the message that [words indistinct]. I know that they still have not purchased the land [words indistinct].

[Reporter] If there is no solution, will you all remain here?

[Giron] Yes. We will stay here.

[Reporter] Will you carry out a hunger strike?

[Giron] I prefer to call it a fast.

[Reporter] For how long?

[Giron] We do not know yet. The peasants will decide this. [end recording]

HONDURAS

OFFICIALS DISCUSS ARIAS PLAN WITH COSTA RICANS

PA232221 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 23 Apr 87 p 3

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- Honduran Foreign Ministry officials told the Costa Rican mission during their meeting on Tuesday that the Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, and Guatemalan rebel groups must play a greater role in Oscar Arias' peace proposal.

Jorge Ramon Hernandez Alcerro, who headed the delegation of the Jose Azcona government, told TIEMPO yesterday during an interview that the cease-fire and amnesty will not have positive results if only the presidents attending the Esquipulas summit on 25 and 26 June make that decision.

He said that during the visit by the Costa Rican delegation -- comprised by Rodrigo Carrera, foreign policies director; and Patricia Doran, Foreign Ministry official in charge of Latin American affairs -- they reviewed the entire content of the Arias proposal.

"We told them that the plan is valid as a working instrument, and the countries are submitting their observations on it."

It was confirmed that the Costa Rican delegates left for San Salvador yesterday. They will then go to Guatemala. Earlier, they were in Nicaragua. At the end of their tour, they will have gathered a number of observations, which they will analyze and take to the Esquipulas presidential summit.

Hernandez Alcerro stated that the Honduran representatives who met with the visitors clearly said that "one of the things that concern us is that the Arias plan proposes that the five presidents declare a cease-fire."

"The five presidents," he added, "can hardly declare a cease-fire, given the nature of the conflict. We feel that the cease-fire should come about as the result of an agreement among the insurgents and the armed forces of the countries where there is an internal conflict."

He said that the Costa Ricans acknowledge that they have only received the reaction of the Nicaraguan rebels, who said that "they would be prepared" to heed a cease-fire. "This is not the same case in El Salvador and Guatemala," Hernandez Alcerro said. He reiterated the Honduran stance that the Costa Rican Government should receive official communications from the Guatemalan and Salvadoran guerrillas stating that they are prepared to end the hostilities. "The presidents cannot unilaterally decide on a cease-fire while the insurgents and the Armed Forces continue the shooting," Hernandez Alcerro noted.

The second point that the Honduran Foreign Ministry officials mentioned to the Costa Rican delegation was that amnesty also "must be the product of a dialogue among opposition forces and the government." He said that the Honduran Government has noticed that only the Guatemalan, Salvadoran, and Nicaraguan Governments have unilaterally declared an amnesty but have "not obtained full results."

Few people belonging to opposition groups have requested amnesty. Moreover, the fighting continues, the adviser to Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras said. "Therefore, the Honduran Government noted that it feels a climate of trust is indispensable for the insurgents to rejoin the societies of their countries through dialogue."

Also, the official said that internal and external variables converge in the Central American crisis, and that different approaches must be used to deal with them. "In other words, there must be a political process followed by negotiations that would lead the internal parties (in the conflict) to reach an agreement for (the dissidents) to join in everyday life," Hernandez Alcerro added.

In addition, external aspects such as the arms race, aid to rebel groups, military maneuvers, terrorism, and subversion, come to the fore. He reiterated that "agreements on these matters already exist within the framework of the Contadora Group." He noted that there is agreement on 90 percent of the important points in the Contadora Group. He stressed that "Contadora is the most complete effort of negotiations," and that the Arias plan "can be a starting point to break the deadlock in the negotiations."

AZCONA, CALLEJAS DISAGREE ON ECONOMIC SITUATION

PA232009 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] The president of the Republic and the top leader of the National Party of Honduras [PNH] have become engaged in a high-level dispute. The disagreement is over the country's economic situation. President Azcona has said it is not true that current revenues have decreased. There has been a slight budget imbalance, he explained, while revenues from the export of various products and from the income tax have increased. He also said that the government has had unexpected expenditures. [PNH leader Rafael Leonardo] Callejas immediately reacted to his remarks.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] President Azcona responded to Callejas' remarks on the deterioration of the country's economic stuation by saying that the Honduran economy is being stabilized and is improving. What follows is Callejas' opinion of President Azcona's remarks.

[Callejas] My source of information was the Honduran Central Bank. That information was not obtained from there. [sentence as heard] The data on 1986 and 1987 show a reduction of the GNP of Honduran citizens and a growing fiscal deficit in 1987 that is greater than the deficit estimated in the national budget. Unemployment persists in Honduras. Perhaps the stabilization policy had led the government to believe that the country's situation has improved. I believe the government should examine not only the figures, which are inconsistent with that view, but also the country's economic reality. I cannot sincerely say that the economy is improving in a country where agricultural production is growing at a rate of only 1 percent, exports depend on international prices, and the fiscal deficit and balance of payments problems depend totally on foreign resources. The Honduran crisis began a long time ago. I am not saying this administration is exclusively responsible for it. However, from that to accepting that since 1980 we have had an economic system -- which we believe is outdated -- we cannot believe -- with what we are experiencing in this country -- that the economic situation has improved. [sentence as heard]

[Reporter] Is there then [words indistinct] between the Central Bank and the executive branch?

[Callejas] Well, it is possible that we are interpreting the data differently. I have here documents on the latest reports by the Honduran Central Bank. The data we have is unfavorable to Honduras. [end recording]

NICARAGUA

CONTRAS DENY IPU CONFERENCE ATTACK PLANNED

PA240120 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0052 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 23 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Today the contras warned all parliament members of the world [as received] that any "terrorist" attack that might take place during the assembly to be held in Nicaragua will be the sole responsibility of the Sandinists. Over 1,000 deputies from different parliaments will hold a world Interparliamentary Union (IPU) conference in Managua beginning 27 April. Indalecio Rodriguez, director of the rebel FDN, said via the clandestine "15 September" radio station that "any terrorist action against the meeting will be the Sandinists' responsibility."

Rodriguez, whose broadcast was heard in this capital, said: "We deny and reject the statements issued by Commander Luis Carrion Cruz, who said that the FDN might carry out a terrorist attack during the IPU meeting." He added: "Luis Carrion wants to cover his back because they (the Sandinists) are capable of carrying out an attack against Western deputies -- or the deputies of El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Venezuela -- and then blaming the FDN." Indalecio Rodriguez said that the Nicaraguan regime "could, in an effort to seek international notoriety, carry out an attack against the parliamentarians." He reasserted that the FDN fighters will not perpetrate this action. The IPU meeting in Nicaragua will be attended by parliamentary members from more than 80 countries on 5 continents, including the United States.

DAILY VIEWS FAILURE OF CIA PLANS FOR CONTRAS

PA230223 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 21 Apr 87 p 3

[By Juan Ramon Huerta]

[Text] According to the plans by the CIA strategists of terror, the Nicaraguan Government should by now be facing a popular rebellion caused by economic problems, lack of transport and food, and deterioration in the standard of living of Nicaraguans.

However, these kinds of plans -- which are expressed through the terrorism of blowing up power pylons, ambushing civilian motorcades, attacking cooperatives, and mining roads -- does not mean that the contras are strong enough to cause any harm to the government. Rather this reflects the only version that they have been able to apply since the United States designed the now uncertain spring plan, directed for propaganda purposes against economic and military objectives of the revolution.

The effectiveness of our defense has halted the route of the plan established first for the war zones and then for the zones in the Pacific, where, according to them, the plan would end; and by now, a temporary government abroad would be ready to enter the country.

The setbacks of the plan begin in the distortion of nature itself, because it is spring in the United States while in Nicaragua a warm season changes the factors.

The terrorists' plans have caused discomfort among some congressmen, who see no signs of defeat of the Sandinist government in the actions against civilians. On the contrary, there is rejection and repudiation every day against the CIA mercenaries. Those who have learned an elementary lesson in military strategy will not give one more dollar for the contras under these circumstances, and this is what the Reagan administration fears the most.

Although it is true that the plans are not new and are part of and overall CIA strategy to overthrow the Sandinist government, we are facing one of the most ambitious attacks by the Reagan administration: They now have a lot of valuable information about the location of the objectives, irresponsibly given to the Somozist guards.

At first, the Reagan administration spokesmen "tried to conceal" the fact that Somozist guards were training somewhere in the United States as elite units. However, they began to leak information about the preparation and training that these groups would be receiving. Recently, because of the virtual failure of the spring plan, they have begun to sell the idea that the recent terrorist attacks are being carried out by these troops, including paratroopers.

The sum of all these facts seeks to portray an image abroad that the contras are alive and strong in Nicaragua. This is why the media is being pressed to cover these kind of facts and to present them as military victories.

This method, with no military prospects of endangering the revolutionary power at all, is aimed at preparing the conditions required for an intervention by U.S. troops, and is directly linked to the military maneuvers known as "Solid Shield-87," which are being conducted in Honduras.

The development of these maneuvers has allowed the United States to handle information on military intelligence and communication and permits the continuation of pressure that is forcing the Nicaraguan people to strengthen and improve their means of defense.

The U.S. method carried out directly by the CIA appeared at the end of last year with aid financed directly by President Reagan, linked to the installation of Radio Liberacion to take the contras out of anonymity, a propagandistic anonymity according to the contras themselves. The CIA invested funds to install in Europe the propaganda office in favor of the contras.

All these actions, however, immediately clashed with the scandal known as Irangate, the election of a democratic majority in Congress, the difficulties in obtaining approval for aid, the contradictions in the mercenary high command, and the involvement of the contras in drug-trafficking activities.

ORTEGA ON DIALOGUE WITH CONTRAS, U.S. POLICY

PA240423 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0325 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Report by Bernardino Rodriguez]

[Text] Nicaraguan President Comrade Daniel Ortega, Commander of the Revolution, walked through the installations of the Olof Palme Convention Center today, where the 77th IPU conference is going to be held. At the end of his tour, Comrade Daniel Ortega spoke to the press:

[Begin recording] [Ortega] [Words indistinct] to be repeating the same speech to justify its aggressive, terrorist policy against Nicaragua. I am referring to the U.S. Government policy against Nicaragua, to President Reagan's policy.

We have always been willing to talk with the contras, and we have to be clear on the fact that a dialogue with the contra movement is a dialogue with the U.S. Government and with the U.S. President, who is the top contra leader.

[Reporter] Why do you not hold a dialogue with the contra movement?

[Ortega] [Words indistinct] to talk with the contras, the U.S. Government, President Reagan [words indistinct].

[Reporter] What do you think of a request made by a group of U.S. conservative businessmen for the withdrawal of Exxon from Nicaragua?

[Ortega] I think that is an unrealistic request, becaue multinationals are present in several parts of the world regardless of the political situation in the countries where they exist.

[Reporter] Commander, what do you think of the renewal of the U.S. financial embargo against Nicaragua?

[Ortega] I think it confirms the U.S. policy toward our country. I think it shows, that despite the Irangate scandal and the deviation of funds to the contras, the U.S. aggressive policy against Nicaragua remains unchanged.

[Reporter] The contra radio stations have said that there are [name indistinct] planes at the [words indistinct] quarter?

[Ortega] Those are false statements, like many other false statements made by those radio stations. The truth is that we do not have those planes. We feel that Nicaragua has a right to own that kind of plane, and if we had that kind of plane we would surely accelerate the total defeat of the contra movement, because it would not receive supplies by air as it does now. [end recording]

USSR'S TULKUNOV COMMENTS ON REASONS FOR VISIT

PA231614 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Upon arriving in Managua yesterday, Lev Nikolayevich Tolkunov, chairman of the Council of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet, recognized the Nicaraguan people's heroism. He stressed that the world parliamentarians will do their duty at the IPU Conference.

[Begin translator recording] We have arrived in your country to strengthen the friendship and solidarity among peoples and to struggle for peace and happiness. We are representatives of the USSR Supreme Soviet, which is the top government institution in our state. We have been asked to do everything possible to make the IPU Conference in Managua a success so that the problems afflicting the peoples of the world can be resolved. I think that the parliamentarians, who are responsible for our people's destiny, will comply with the important task entrusted to them. I would like to tell the Nicaraguan people -- the men, women, and children of this heroic country -- that our people know of your struggle and that we support the Nicaraguan people. We believe that in the last years of the 20th century all peoples should be independent. Independence and peace should be independent and that no one should meddle in their internal affairs. We believe that no country, no matter how strong, should meddle in the domestic affairs of other states. This is one of the postulates of our policy, which we will defend at this conference. [end recording]

PPSC SECRETARY GENERAL COMMENTS ON ARIAS PLAN

PA231305 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Mauricio Diaz, secretary general of the Popular Social Christian Party [PPSC], has said that the government should take into account the views of the Nicaraguan opposition before engaging in negotiations with foreign governments.

Diaz contends that the government must hold a dialogue with the opposition parties before engaging in a dialogue with the Central American presidents at the Esquipulas summit. As is known, a top priority on the agenda of the international discussion regarding the crisis in Central America is the plan submitted by the Costa Rican president. The PPSC leader feels thast this plan is a good point to open the discussions because it takes into consideration the validity of Nicaragua's Constitution, the current situation in Central America, and the civic Nicaraguan opposition.

Is the plan proposed by President Arias truly adequate for laying the groundwork to achieve peace in Central America? Can the five Central American presidents reach agreement despite their current differences? Will President Arias' plan become one more of the many plans that have been proposed during the Contadora peace negotiations? Besides the governments, what do the opposition parties think about the points proposed by President Arias?

This morning The Awakening [name of newscast] will present the views of PPSC Secretary General Diaz, who was one of the signers of the nine-point document entitled "For a Commitment for Peace and Independence of Nicaragua." Here are Diaz's remarks:

[Begin Diaz recording] When analyzing President Arias' initiative in detail, we find, first, a series of [words indistinct] characteristics of this initiative. The first one of them is that it emphasizes democracy as a [words indistinct] objective for the resolution of the crisis in Central America. The second one is that, from the perspective of this initiative, the (?resolution of) the Central American conflict is clouded by diverse factors, such as Contadora's actions, the partisan antagonisms between Democrats and Republicans in the United States, and the role that has been played by the Socialist International and certain Latin American politicians who advocate a progressive line.

In third place, because of this initiative differences arose at the summit meeting of the Central American presidents held in San Jose among the Central American countries regarded as democratic because they had differing interests. I refer in particular to the positions outlined by Napoleon Duarte, that is, the objections Duarte raised to Arias' initiative, and the position of active neutrality sponsored by President Cerezo. Moreover, during an interview granted by Commanders Daniel Ortega and Tomas Borge to THE NEW YORK TIMES Magazine -- to THE NEW YORK TIMES, that is -- on 18 March, both said that they would not agree to changes in Nicaragua's political system. We do not think this really corresponds to a solely partisan [words indistinct] of the FSLN because thus far the [words indistinct] political opposition has not been consulted in regard to the type of system or an eventual negotiation regarding the type of Nicaraguan system that could (?arise) in Esquipulas or any other place.

From our point of view, the Arias plan also grants a number of important concessions in regard to the Nicaraguan reality, the Sandinist government, and the [words indistinct] opposition in Nicaragua. The Arias initiative recognizes our nonarmed political opposition in Nicaragua, putting it as a prime factor for negotiation with the FSLN's government. In addition, by encouraging municipal, legislative, and presidential elections in each country within the periods established in their respective constitutions, it recognizes the Constitution promulgated in Nicaragua on 9 January this year, opposing [contraponiendose] the position of the Reagan administration in regard to the elections held in Nicaragua in 1984 and the Constitution that went into effect in January of this year.

In addition, the Arias proposal asks the extraregional governments which openly or covertly provide military aid to irregular forces to suspent this aid. As I understand it, this point refers to U.S. assistance to the contras.

We feel that the combination of all the factors we have previously pointed out makes it evident that there is a danger that the Arias plan will go the Contadora way [se Contadorice].

This means that, instead of taking the path to peace, the plan only take the defeatist route of appeasement. Nevertheless, we feel the initiative is a starting point, not an end in itself, and that it must also include the proposals raised by the internal political opposition in Nicaragua, which are (?contained) in the nine-point document that was submitted to President Ortega [words indistinct] February 1987, on which we have received no response whatsoever.

I would like to point out in regard to this proposal by the seven parties that, in the first place, it is a national initiative that stresses the need to find solutions here in Nicaragua and [words indistinct] sincere patriotic spirit, completely devoid of any sectarian or vengeful attitudes. It is predicated on the urgent need to take sure steps to (?establish) a solid and lasting system of national coexistence based on a general acceptance and a daily enforcement of civic rights that will guarantee a peaceful development of political processes, support and promote the nation's progress in all areas, and at the same time close all doors to attempts at foreign meddling in our country's affairs.

Now then, even though this initiative is supported by parties that pursue doctrines, ideologies, and [words indistinct], it remains alive and in effect. [Words indistinct] it may, in fact, serve to strengthen the position of the Sandinist government at the meeting of Central American presidents in Esquipulas. We feel that the first step this government should have taken was to seek a national agreement with the [word indistinct] political opposition forces for the purpose, in the first place, of stopping the war -- which is the fundamental cause of the huge crisis [words indistinct] our society, and then take a single proposal, with due support from the various sectors of the national political opposition, to Esquipulas instead of going to Esquipulas to negotiate behind the backs of the opposition, which has been demanding for quite some time a sincere dialogue as a prior condition to reaching national agreements (?conducive to peace). [end recording]

HONDURAN GOVERNMENT CLOSES BORDER TO NICARAGUANS

PA230442 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 22 Apr 87 p 12

[Text] According to statements by an official at the Honduran Embassy in Nicaragua, Nicaraguans are banned from stopping in Honduras or entering that country by road.

The measure, which has been described as discriminatory and humiliating, was confirmed by Leonardo Davila Cordoba, an official at the Honduran diplomatic headquarters, who said that it is a new Honduran Government order.

Because of the simple fact of being a Nicaraguan, any fellow patriot who steps on Honduran soil is charged in dollars for the passage of his vehicle, and is also forced to pay $20 for a custodian who must travel with him in his vehicle.

The extreme of this situation was given yesterday when two Nicaraguans who reside in El Salvador were prevented from crossing the border in the area known as "Border of Brotherhood."

The widow Esmeralda Herrera de Suarez and her daughter Esmeralda Suarez Herrera, who for many years have lived in El Salvador, were returned to Nicaragua because of the new measure.

What reason is there behind the new measure? How will the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry react over this new abuse and humiliation against those whose only crime is that they are Nicaraguan?... Last night I could not get an answer from the Foreign Ministry.

CARLOS NUNEZ DISCUSSES IPU CONFERENCE

PA221254 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1644 GMT 21 Apr 87

[News conference by Commander Carlos Nunez at the Presidential House in Managua -- live]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] On the morning of [date unheard] the official inauguration of the IPU conference will take place, and on the same afternoon the conference will be officially installed. I will take advantage of this moment to inform you that as of today, Comrade Manuel Espinosa will be the official spokesman for the conference. He will provide the necessary information and will organize interviews between reporters and the conference delegates.

[Espinosa] For the newsmen who have questions for Commander Nunez, we are at your service. Just as at all news conferences, we ask you to identify your organization an give your names. [passage omitted]

[Name indistinct] from the BBC in London: Commander, how much did the convention center cost, and how was it financed, and second, at a time when Nicaragua is having problems with the construction of housing, health centers, [words indistinct], feeding its people, and importing medicine, how have your priorities been arranged in order to build a structure of this type, as well as luxurious hotels, while there are many other problems that cannot be solved?

[Nunez] It seems to me this issue does not call for a comparison between the various priorities established by the revolution; the repairs that were made -- some of which were part of programs duly authorized by the government to help the country's tourism industry grow and the acquisition of foreign exchange -- have coincided with the celebration of this conference. In this regard, the first thing I want to make completely clear concerns the speculation, the rumor to the effect that the Nicaraguan Government and state, upon assuming the commitment to host the IPU conference, sacrificed food supply, and production programs. This in addition to being incorrect, seems improper to me because these programs will not be affected.

The ministries involved with the issues mentioned here have precise instructions from the president to guarantee the application of the programs as soon as they are approved. Other organizations, those that will receive and channel the foreign exchange income resulting from the payments received for food, vehicles, etc. from the delegates, will be utilized to guarantee their needs.

In regard to the housing problem, it is a problem that we have tried to overcome since the revolutionary victory; it is not a new phenomenon, on the contrary, we have tried to invest in programs that will ease the tense situation but, unfortunately, it has not been possible to do so because of the situation we are experiencing. You may say that it is a contradiction to hold a conference of this nature with the situation the country is experiencing. However, we could respond that the country's economic situation cannot be solved solely by implementing a policy of isolation, or through the modest efforts we have made on an international level to explain the political, economic, and social situation, and the aggression our country is suffering.

We could also point to the fact that we have approximately 1,000 delegates here, who with their own eyes will be able to directly view exactly what the country's political, economic, and social situation is, and see the aggression that Nicaragua has been subjected to, which makes this an extraordinary political investment.

These delegates will have a more objective view of the situation in every regard.

In conclusion, I will add that precisely these installations, which have been remodeled and can be quite impressive, will serve in the future so that Nicaragua, which has a very active foreign policy, can host other events of this type; they are not only to favor the country's interests but for the use of other international organizations, which seek throughout the world and on the Latin American Continent to discuss heated and controversial issues such as the economic situation, the foreign debt, etc. [passage omitted]

[Guevara] [Jesus Guevara of NOTIMEX could you tell us what importance this conference has for Nicaragua within the framework of the war the country is facing at this time? [passage omitted]

[Nunez] The importance of the IPU within the framework of the aggression is, first, that this is the first time since the IPU was founded that a conference of this nature is being held in the Central American region. The second opportunity will go to Guatemala next year.

Second, the presence of all the delegates is an excellent opportunity to inform them about, or allow them to see for themselves, the revolutionary process' institutional development and the political and juridical transformations that have taken place oveer the past 7 years. Third, this is also an opportunity for the delegates to see the effects of the war for the economic and social viewpoints, and the violation of the Nicaraguan people's human rights. Finally, I must say that we will now be able to establish direct ties between the Nicaraguan political forces, legitimately acknowledged in our counry, and the diverse delegations from the five continents that comprise the IPU. Regarding this last point and the functions of this political organization, I must say that any of the delegation members who represent the national groups that belong to the IPU will enjoy absolute and unrestricted liberty to tour the entire country, and to establish relations with Nicaraguan counterparts, the leaders of all political trends organized in Nicaragua, and with the social and religious orgaizations that operate in our country. In other words, the delegates will gain knowledge of the most varied views, interpretations, and analyses of all the political parties juridically recognized in Nicaragua -- those that are members of the National Assembly as well as those that are not.

As you can see, the holding of the IPU conference has special importance within the framework of the situation the country is facing, and after the drafting and promulgation of Nicaragua's political Constitution, this is the most important event w have celebrated in the current year. [passage omitted]

[Javier Reyes of Radio Sandino] Commander, what does Nicaragua expect from the IPU's discussion of Central America? Also, could you tell us what the Nicaraguan delegation's position will be regarding the Central American issue? How many countries have confirmed their participation, and what expectations have they fulfilled regarding the initial estimates? In other words, is the number of delegates a satisfactory percentage? Is is what was expected? How does it compare with attendance at other assemblies of this type?

[Nunez] Let's begin with your last question. According to the information I have received, the results are highly satisfactory. The reports also include delegations that may report their attendance within a few days.

According to the information I have received, the degree of attendance at this conference is higher than I have seen in other countries. Therefore, I am very pleased about this. In regard to Nicaragua's role I would speak of Nicaragua's responsibility. We must consider that, as the country hosting the IPU conference, it falls to us, above all, to play an aggressive role to guarantee the success and brilliance of the conference without adopting prior positions. I feel that our first responsibility in playing our aggressive role is to look into every topic. During the general debate we should consider the effects of the political, economic, and social situation of the world on the realization of the women's conference, the secretarial meting, the discussion of the supplementary [word indistinct], and apart from all of this, Nicaragua as the host country should always seek to promote and develop a consensus among all of the delegations so that the resolutions made will be as balanced as possible, and will be supported by the majority of the national groups. Therefore, as a country we hope that this will be the first acknowledgment [not further identified] of the IPU conference, and in regard to the different topics that will be discussed, obviously Nicaragua will participate, but we do not want to establish positions beforehand. [passage omitted]

[Name and agency indistinct] At an assembly of correspondents held last night, I was designated as president of the correspondents' association, to give you a brief report and to make a request. We met yesterday to consider the many problems we face in doing our jobs. I will not list all of the problems we have because it would be lengthy, and this is not the proper time. I will only state that one of the most important problems we are currently facing, which has been bothering the correspondents and has even angered them, are the restrictions for covering the war zones, and in general in covering the war. This country is at war. It is a country in which the leading issues are obviously direct testimonies of this reality, of the war theater. Yesterday we agreed that these worries, these concerns, and this displeasure should be made known to all the members of the National Directorate whenever we met with them. This is the first opportunity we have had to meet with you. That is why I am addressing you, Commander Nunez.

Aside from that, we agreed to request a meeting with President Daniel Ortega to discuss these problems. We would like you to intercede on our behalf to make this meeting possible because if we resort to other channels, let us say the normal channels, like we did last year when we sent a letter that has not been answered yet. [sentence as heard] Therefore, we want to ask you, Commander Nunez, to intercede on our behalf and get us that appointment with President Ortega to discuss the basic difficulties that we have now with our work. This is all. I do not want to take too much of your time.

[Nunez] Well, as a member of the National Dirrctorate, I did not know about the degree of satisfaction or discomfort of the reporters. This is the first i have heard of it. Undoubtedly, I cannot understand it without knowing the reasons. I do not know about the problems. However, I can transfer your petition to the president of the Republic to meet with him to look into this problem. I can promise that I will not make a written but a verbal request. I hope that the president will send you a quick response. This is all.

Foreign Delegations Arrive

PA240229 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 23 Apr 87 p 5

[Excerpts] Several parliamentary delegations arrived in Nicaragua yesterday to participate in the 77th IPU conference. Among the delegations arriving were those from the USSR, Congo, Cape Verde, Poland, DPRK, and Switzerland. [passage omitted]

Pak Song-chol, vice president of the Supreme People's Assembly and head of the DPRK delegation to the 77th IPU conference, said the Central American conflict should be discussed at the conference as a supplementary issue, and that peaceful solutions of the conflict should be outlined.

The DPRK leader said that the success of the conference will contribute to the construction of a new Nicaraguan society and to peace in that country.

Herrera Heads Delegation

PA221239 Managua International Service in Spanish 2350 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] An FSLN guerrilla commander will head the official Nicaraguan delegation to the 77th IPU conference to be inaugurated on Monday, 27 April, in Managua. The FSLN appointed Commander Leticia Herrera, vice president of the National Assembly and current secretary general of the Sandinist Defense Committee, CDS, to head the Nicaraguan delegation to the meeting. Commander Herrera is one of the FSLN deputies to the National Assembly that won their seats during the assembly elections of 4 November 1984.

BRIEFS

DONATION RECEIVED -- Today, in Corinto, GDR Ambassador Heinrich Marz delivered to Commander of the Revolution Henry Ruiz, Nicaraguan foreign cooperation minister, a donation worth $7 million. The donation consists of 400 tons of flour, 446 tons of soap, 24,500 school bags, 50,000 bedsheets for children, 3,000 radios, 30,000 pair of rubber boots 2 million razor blades, 10,000 drills, and batteries for radios. Commander Henry Ruiz expressed thanks for the noble action by the GDR Government on behalf of the Nicaraguan people and government. This donation, which arrived today in Puerto Corinto, is more proof of the GDR's solidarity with the Sandinist Revolution. [Summary] [Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 22 Apr 87 PA]

CRIME UP IN 1987 -- Today, Subcommander Javier Lopez, deputy director of the Sandinist Police, compared crime figures during the first quarter of this year with last year's. He noted that 4,218 crimes were perpetrated this year, which is a 14.1 percent increase over the same period last year. He also said that crimes against the people rose by 2.4 percent. Under this category 1,289 crimes have been registered so far this year. This figure includes 78 homicides, 27 murders, 783 assaults, and 48 rapes. Homicide increased 4.1 percent. He also said there were 2,640 crimes against property, while last year there were 2,242. In all there were 1,116 thefts and 840 cases of larceny. Concluding, he said there were 39 cases of drug trafficking, compared with 34 last year. [Summary] [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 21 Apr 87 PA]

USSR FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATIONS END MEETING

FL231506 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] A meeting of representatives of friendship societies with the USSR from 17 countries ended last night at the Cuban-Soviet Friendship Association. The final declaration of the 3-day meeting, which was held in the Atlantico Hotel in Santa Maria del Mar, Havana, was presented.

The document confirms, among other things, the support of the constant peace initiative of the Soviet Union. During his closing remarks, Zoilo Marinello, president of the Cuban-Soviet Friendship Association, underscored the validity of the Leninist thought in the struggle for world stability and solidarity among the peoples.

U.S.-SALVADORAN 'FRIENDSHIP' VIEWED

PA230417 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Apr 87

["Focus" feature read by Amalia Sanmartino]

[Text] If we analyze the issue of U.S. relations with certain countries described by the U.S. Government as its friends, worrisome contradictions emerge, especially for the countries that are the object of this friendship. The case that concerns us today is El Salvador, whose regime -- it is well known -- is sustained by U.S. military and economic aid.

According to a report by the Salvadoran workers solidarity coordinating board, during the past 3 months 3,500 people have been left jobless due to dismissals or the closure of the companies where they worked. The threat of unemployment also hangs over the head of nearly 20,000 state employees whom the government plasn to dismiss in order to reduce the fiscal deficit.

Statistics offer the blood-chilling figure of a 50 percent unemployment rate in El Salvador, a country whose friend -- the U.S. President -- has threatened to return its immigrants who number approximately 500,000 to 600,000. Salvadorans sociologist Segundo Montes said recently that there could be as many as 1 million Salvadorans in the United States. Should anyone find this figure exaggerated, he can try to figure it out, taking into consideration the figure of 600,000 immigrants who, through the application of the Simpson-Rodino law, are being threatened with deportation. If only half of them return to the country, where will Jose Napoleon Duarte find jobs for them? If state and private companies are getting rid of their workers, and the factories are closing because of lack of resources, can the Salvadoran regime create new sources of employment to meet the immigrants' needs when they return?

I leave the answers to you, my friends, and I am sure that you will give serious thought to what the U.S. Government has described as friendship. Right?

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC DOES NOT OPPOSE TRADE RELATIONS

FL231616 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] The Dominican Republic Government does not oppose establishing trade relations with Cuba. This was said in Santo Domingo by Dominican Agriculture Minister Norberto Quezada. He asserted that the only thing that banned trade was a clause signed by former administrations with the IMF. He added that this clause was cancelled when the Dominican Republic fulfilled its agreements with the financial organization.

ANGOLAN TV, RADIO WORK PROTOCOL SIGNED

FL230215 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Cuba and Angola signed a work protocol this afternoon in the areas of radio and television. The agreement will be effective until the end of 1989.

Ismael Gonzalez Gonzalez, president of the ICRT [Cuban Institute of Radio and Television], and Carlos Garcia, general director of the Angolan People's Television, signed the document on behalf of their respective countries.

The work protocol provides for the exchange of specialized personnel and programs that will, in one form or another, improve the quality of the material offered to the population.

GROUP OF 77 DISCUSSES 'HAVANA DECLARATION'

FL231503 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] The 3d day of sessions of the Group of 77 ministerial meeting was characterized by hard work by regional work and draft groups. The draft of the declaration, which is already being called the Havana Declaration, was anlyzed by the three regional groups created to unify the views and positions of each geographic area.

The subjects to be proposed for discussion at the Seventh UNCTAD Conference have been almost completely defined. The commissions and working groups should end their discussions during this morning's sessions.

The agreements reached will be announced during the closing session of the Group of 77 ministerial meeting on Friday [24 April].

Nicaragua Calls for Unity

PA230352 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] The Group of 77 ministerial meeting currently underway in Havana is the beginning of an effort by the underdeveloped countries to solve the serious problems that have resulted from the current international economic order, Nicaraguan Foreign Trade Minister Alejandro Martinez Cuenca, who is attending the meeting, told this station.

The Nicaraguan official said that only the joint action of the Latin American, African, and Asian countries will make it possible for their common demands and positions to gain strength and guarantee the success of the 77th UNCTAD conference, which is scheduled to take place in Geneva in July.

The Central American countries, Martinez Cuenca added, depend on the exportation of their basic products, especially coffee, the prices of which have plummeted with the resulting problems and lack of foreign exchange in these countries. This is an issue that the UNCTAD meeting should discuss, the Nicaraguan minister said.

New Economic Order Urged

PA240248 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] The group of Latin American countries here in Havana attending the ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 introduced several changes in the draft political declaration. The other regional groups are discussing the Latin Americn proposals during the 4th day of sessions. According to diplomatic sources, the Latin American group wrote a draft declaration stating that the crisis affecting the international community is of a structural nature and is not subject to mere changes in policies.

Likewise, the document contains a stronger reference to the view that the foreign debt is unpayable under existing economic and commercial circumstances. It also says that the development of many nations will be unattainable as long as current international economic relations remain in effect. Other sources said that Latin American delegations are sponsoring a resolution condemning the U.S. trade embargo on Nicaragua. It also calls for adherence to the ruling issued by the International Court of Justice at The Hague, which declared the U.S. trade embargo illegal.

It was also known that documents on South Africa, Palestine, and Cuba are being drafted. Cuba is also affected by Washington's trade embargo.

FIDEL CASTRO AWARDS MEDAL TO U.S. SCIENTIST

FL220154 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, today decorated U.S. scientist Albert Sabin, who discovered the oral polio vaccination. The emminent scientist also received the title of Distinguished Researcher from Cuba's Academy of Sciences.

[Speech by unidentified speaker] This occasion provides an opportunity to present you, Professor Albert Sabin, in the name of the Council of State and as recognition from the Cuban people, the Carlos J. Finley Medal, which is named after the most illustrious and renowned researcher, the son of our own people, who, like you, knew how to dedicate his life to serving humanity. [end recording]

CASTRO ATTENDS INAUGURATION OF HEALTH FAIR

PA240211 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] With top Cuban leader Fidel Castro in attendance, the third International medical equipment fair, called Health for Everyone, was inaugurated here in Havana. Julio Garcia Olivera, president of the Cuban Chamber of Commerce, gave the opening speech. He stressed the high priority our country gives to the field of health. He added that despite the current economic crisis, Cuba does not set limits to the resources on public health. He also emphasized the internationalist nature of Cuba's medicine.

There are 260 foreign enterprises and 25 Cuban enterprises participating in the Health for Everyone fair.

MID-SIZE FIRE REPORTED AT PORT OF HAVANA

FL231635 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Two destroyed offices and minor damage to some merchandise have been the results of a mid-size fire at the Haiphong maritime terminal No 1 at the port of Havana. The fire was extinghished at 2330 thanks to the work of maritime and land units of the capital's Firefighting and Prevention General Directorate, workers who were on the job, and the crew of the (Vielekeluki) Soviet ship that is docked at a pier near where the fire broke out.

HAVANA PROVINCE HOLDS ASSESSMENT MEETING

FL211626 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] The progress made in the organization of work and salaries at the Havana Province livestock-agricultural enterprises has been highlighted at the assessment meeting on the process of rectification of mistakes, presided over by Victorino Lemus, alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee and first PCC secretary in the territory. Victorino Lemus said there are still various problems that need to be solved, such as the excessive amount of report forms. He made a call to boost the process and increase efficiency to commemorate the 34th anniversary of the attack on the Moncada Barracks. The main ceremony marking this event will be held in the province.

CORRECTION TO VISIT BY GAMES ORGANIZERS

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Fernandez Welcomes Pan-American Games Organizers," published in the 17 April Latin America DAILY REPORT, page Q 1: Last paragraph, third line from bottom: ...Manuel Gonzalez Guerra, president of the Cuban Olympic Committee [COC]; and Conrado Martinez Corona, president of the INDER... (supplying dropped line)

GRENADA

OPPOSITION ACCUSES GOVERNMENT OF MISMANAGEMENT

FL231645 Brigetown CANA in English 2105 GMT 22 Apr 87

[By George Worme]

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, April 22, CANA -- Grenada's increased parliamentary opposition today described the government's economic policies as bankrupt, amounting to total mismanagement and causing suffering. But the government side struck back, accusing the opposition of cheap political posturing and intellectual dishonesty.

The charges and counter-charges came as ex-Labour Minister Francis Alexis, ex-Education Minister George Brizan and former Junior Legal Affairs Minister Tillman Thomas joined the parliamentary opposition. The three resigned from the government last week, after disagreeing with Prime Minister Herbert Blaize's plans to retrench 1,800 public servants.

As parliament continued debate on the 1987 national budget, Brizan, an economist, charged that the fiscal policies of the two-year old government were now bankrupt. What we are now witnessing is a crisis in financial management and in effect the bankruptcy of the fiscal policy, he said.

Brizan reported suggesting a superior model to the one put forward by prime minister and Minister of Finance Blaize before resigning from government. This model, he said, called for a return of income tax, redefinition of corporate companies, and for government to invest in two competent accountants.

Like Brizan, Alexis said that before they left government they had warned the administration that its fiscal policy would bring suffering and distress to the people of Grenada. My contention is that we have been put into that position because of the bad fiscal policy they have been following, and when we pointed that out we were asked to apologize, he said.

Alexis accused Public Utilities Minister Keith Mitchell of sending home workers from his ministry while keeping on the job his own lackeys. I dare the minister of communications and works to tell us how many daily paid workers are being sent home daily, he remarked.

Alexis charged the government with having no moral or social conscience because of its decision to retrench workers.

Opposition Parliamentarian Kenny Lalsingh said that retrenchment would lead to an increase in crime and the birth rate and that government needed to rethink its economic programme which he said amounted to total mismanagement.

Mitchell described the accusations levelled at government as merely cheap political posturing by persons looking for political power. He charged that the debate on the budget was seeing a lot of intellectual dishonesty being displayed by those who recently left government. I am proud to be a house slave under Prime Minister Herbert Blaize than to be a house slave under mad men, he remarked.

Civil Aviation Minister George McGuire also said that the country was now witnessing what he referred to as a monster with five heads and one tail riding the political train in Grenada trying to attract the masses. Like Mitchell, he expressed confidence that Grenadians would not be fooled and that these politicians would be exposed.

Speaker of the house, Sir Hudson Scipio, repeatedly urged the parliamentarians to direct their remarks to the issue being debated and stop the vendetta. The debate is continuing.

JAMAICA

LOAN SECURED TO BOOST COFFEE PRODUCTION

FL211807 Bridgetown CANA in English 1401 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 21, CANA -- The Jamaica Coffee Industry has secured a J13 million dollar (1 Jca = 18 cents U.S.) loan from the government's Agricultural Credit Bank to resuscitate old coffee plants. This is part of a local effort to increase the coffee industry's production from 4 million to 14 million pounds a year by the mid-1990s. The loan was negotiated by the Coffee Industry Development Company (CIDCO), which has mapped out the resuscitation programme.

ST LUCIA

REDUCED SLATE OF ELECTION CANDIDATES ANNOUNCED

FL221602 Bridgetown CANA in English 0002 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, April 21, CANA -- A reduced slate of candidates was nominated today to contest next week's general election, the second in less than a month. The ruling United Workers Party (UWP) and the main opposition St Lucia Labor Party (SLP) are again contesting all 17 seats, but the small Progressive Labour Party (PLP) is fielding only four instead of the 12 on April 6.

The slim 9-8 majority won by the UWP in that election encouraged it to return to the polls early.

The SLP's list of candidates remains unchanged, while the UWP has made three changes in an attempt to regain a two-thirds majority. In the Gros Islet constituency which the UWP lost to the SLP's leader, Juilan Hunte, the new contestant is businessman Phillip Hippolyte. In the Dennery South constituency, the new candidate is Ivan Gaspard, while the party is fielding Desmond Fostin, a civil engineer, in the Soufriere seat.

PLP leader George Odlum said his party's decision to contest four seats is an attempt to preserve its profile. Two factors govern our decision, one is that we should not impede any swing in the country that was going for the Labor party or against the UWP, but at the same time we had to keep the party's profile, he said.

It was felt that if the party only contested in two seats we would be sacrificing the thrust of the party in the Castries area... We also thought it necessary to maintain the party's profile, especially in the areas we performed well, so that our supporters do not feel totally left out and would have to transfer their votes or stay away from the polls as some had promised to do, Odlum said. He added the fact that no formal approach had come from the St Lucia Labour Party suggested that there was no basis for any electoral accommodation.

VII. WESTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
VIII. SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT; contents include: International Affairs Inter-African Affairs Central Africa Burundi Cameroon Central African Republic Congo Equatorial Guinea Gabon Rwanda Sao Tome & Principe Zaire East Africa Djibouti Ethiopia Kenya Somalia Tanzania Uganda Indian Ocean Comoros Madagascar Mauritius Seychelles Southern Africa Angola Botswana Lesotho Malawi Mozambique Namibia Republic of South Africa Reunion Swaziland Zambia Zimbabwe Western Africa Benin Burkina Faso Cape Verde Islands The Gambia Ghana Guinea Guinea-Bissau Ivory Coast Liberia Mali Niger Nigeria Senegal Sierra Leone Togo

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